

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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The DYNAMITE of CONVICTIONS

by Dr. Lee Roberson

Pastor Highland Park Baptist Church; President Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee

"But Daniel purposed in his heart..."—Dan. 1:8.

As a young lad of fifteen, Daniel had deep convictions. His religious training had given to him a sincere consciousness of right and wrong. When tempted to partake of food and drink which would defile him, he refused. By the law of Moses, the Jews were forbidden to eat certain kinds of food, as well as food prepared in a certain way. Some animals were to be avoided as unclean. Besides, Daniel could not partake of meat which had already been offered in sacrifice to heathen idols. Therefore, Daniel saw that to partake of the royal provision was to pollute himself by participation with idolatry, and to transgress the law of God. Let the consequences be what they might, he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

This was not an easy thing for a young lad in a foreign country to do. He did it and won the victory.

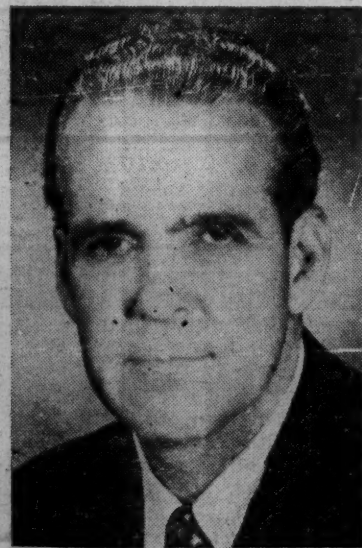
Whenever we have deep religious principles, they are sure to be tested. Gold must be submitted to the fire to prove its reality and to purge it from dross. Everything worthwhile in the world comes to a testing time. When we have deep abiding beliefs in our hearts, we can be sure that we are going to suffer trial.

Daniel was tested again and again. When Darius made a decree that no one should ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, with the penalty for disobedience the lion's den, Daniel remained true.

When the writing had been signed, Daniel went to his house and with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he kneeled down upon his knees three times a day and prayed. He gave thanks before his God. He made no change in his devotional life. You recall that Daniel's enemies assembled and heard him pray, and gave the report to the king. As a result Daniel was cast into the den of lions, but God preserved his life. You recall the scene of an uneasy king who passed the night in fasting, and then rose early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. He cried out with a lamentable voice, saying, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his

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Dr. Lee Roberson

Why People Are Not Saved

By Rev. A. Telford, Pastor
Berachah Church, 309 W. School Lane; Philadelphia 44, Pa.

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."
—John 5:40.

Now, the Bible is an amazing Book. The Bible is a wonderful Book. The Bible is a supernatural Book. The Bible is a practical Book. The Bible is not only an amazing Book, but the Bible deals with amazing subjects. Subjects are dealt with that are not dealt with anywhere else. If you read another book and find the same subject dealt with in the book, remember the writer borrowed the light from the Word of God. The Bible treats of subjects that are not dealt with anywhere else in the world. The Bible is a Book of final authority. It has the last word to say on things that are moral and things that are spiritual. It is the final Word; it is the authoritative Word.

Riding in the car one day, I

said to a man, "Are you a Christian?"

"Well, I suppose I am."

"I said, 'Now I want to ask you a question. Have you ever been born again by the Spirit of God? Are you a child of God?'"

"Now," he said, "that is a question."

"I said, 'I suppose it is a question, but it is a question that ought to be answered.'"

"Well," he said, "where does final authority lie? Who has final authority? In whose lap can we find it?"

I answered, "Final authority lies between the covers of our Bible. This Book, the Word of God, is final authority, for God's Word is settled in Heaven."

Now, the Bible tells us definitely, positively, and clearly where Heaven is. No other book can tell us where Heaven is. The Bible tells us about Heaven. No other Book on earth unless based on the Bible, can tell you about Heaven. No other book can tell you about what lies beyond the grave, in the place of eternal bliss, or in the place of eternal damnation. The Bible does. The Bible tells us what Heaven is like. The Bible tells us who is going there. All we know about Heaven is found between the covers of the Bible.

More than that—the Bible tells us about God. Can you pick up a book any where that can tell you the truth about God? Can you



Rev. Andrew Telford

pick up a book that will tell you about the character, the virtues, the nature of God Almighty, the power of God? Absolutely not!

The Bible not only tells us about Heaven; the Bible not only tells us about God, but the Bible tells us about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. You have no other original source book that can tell you the truth about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but the Bible. We have the messages about Christ written by historians. There are some things about Jesus Christ in other books, but we do not have there the full truth about Jesus Christ—only between the covers of the Bible—and that truth is there in its fullness.

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THE GOSPEL

By Rev. T. Roland Philips, D.D.,
Pastor, Arlington Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland

"Now I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures."—I Cor. 15:1-4. (American Standard Version).

The chapter from which these words are taken is the one in which the Spirit of God declares to us the fact and the importance of the resurrection. It was occasioned by a doubt which had arisen in the minds of some of the Corinthian Christians. In verse 12 we read, "Now if Christ is preached that he hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?" So some were saying that there was no such thing as the resurrection of the dead.

Now these doubters were not denying that there was such a thing as a life after death, or that the spirit lived on when the body died. They were not questioning that; else they would not have been interested at all in the things of God. What they doubted was the fact of the resurrection—that is, that the body as well as the spirit would live again.

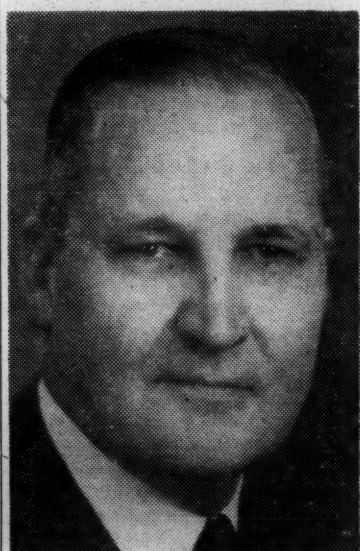
To answer that doubt Paul wrote this great chapter in which he reveals not only the fact of the resurrection, but also the manner of it. He begins by declaring that the resurrection was an essential part of the Gospel which he had preached to them. "For," he says, "I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures."

In that sentence you find the three great historical facts that go to make up the Gospel:

(a) The death of Christ. He died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

(b) The burial of Christ. And He was buried.

(c) The resurrection. And that He hath been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.



Rev. Roland Philips, D.D.

Now all three of these facts are essential if we are to correctly understand the Gospel. To lose any one of them is to pervert the good tidings. On the cross our Lord died, and He died according to the Scriptures, that is, in the manner and in the way in which the Scriptures said He would die. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5).

Our Lord died there as our substitute and Saviour. He bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes we are healed. He died according to the Scriptures. And He was buried. He went into the grave and carried our sin into oblivion.

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WHY OBSERVE IT?

Compelling Reasons for Writing Us During Letter Month

1. TO WIN SOULS: "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Booklets Less Than Cost.
2. FOR FREE GIFT: 24-Page Pamphlet, "Pearls of Paradise," Free on Request.
3. FOR THRIFT: Free Book With Every \$5 Cash Retail Order, Subscription, or Gift; Big Savings on Sermon Books—4 for \$5.
4. GRATITUDE: Those Who Are Blessed Should Say So.
5. FOR JESUS' SAKE: to Help Us Get Out the Gospel.

By Editor John R. Rice

May is Letter Month. We want thousands of letters to come, and we want you to take advantage of special gifts and savings. These letters must be postmarked not later than June 1. So will you please hurry and get your letter in the mail. Do it now!

1. Will You Help Us Win 1,000 Souls in Ten Days?

We are having a new printing of the widely-known, 24-page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" God laid it on my heart to write out the plan of salvation so simple, so urgent, with so many Scriptures, with objections answered, with a simple decision form. I wrote it out and God has blessed it beyond my fondest dreams. There are 24 pages. The regular price is \$2 per hundred in the English version. (The pamphlet has already been translated into eighteen languages, and spread in millions of copies around the world.)

Of the one million new copies

ordered, already a quarter of a million copies have been delivered from the press in Newton, Kansas. More are being printed now. If readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will order and distribute carefully among neighbors, friends, strangers, school children and others 200,000 copies of this booklet within the next ten days, with a personal word urging people to read it and be saved, I believe we can, beyond all doubt, win over a thousand people to Christ.

So we are making a special offer. You may have one copy of the booklet free on request. You may buy others at two cents a copy if you like. You may buy one hundred or more copies at half price, \$1 per hundred, plus 15c postage.

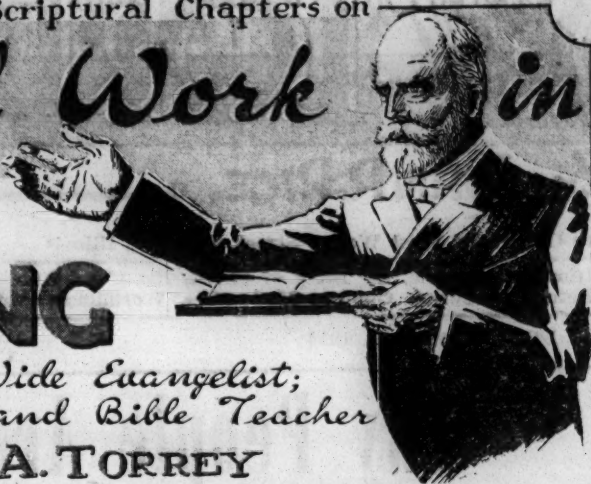
Will you order copies today to give to your unsaved children, to nearby neighbors, to members of your Sunday School class, to pupils in school, to prisoners in

(Continued on page 5)

15 Wonderful, Scriptural Chapters on

Personal Work in SOUL WINNING

By the Late World-Wide Evangelist;
Bible School Builder and Bible Teacher
Dr. R. A. TORREY



CHAPTER III

Where To Do Personal Work

I. After a Gospel Meeting

Perhaps the easiest and most natural place to do personal work is after a Gospel meeting. Whenever you attend a meeting, watch for some one to deal with after the meeting is over. Do not trust to chance in the matter, but as the minister preaches the sermon keep your eyes on the audience and watch who it is that is hit and what hits them, then you can follow up the work that the minister has already done by his sermon. You will soon acquire good judgment in deciding with whom it is wisest to speak.

Of course one must be on his guard against being obtrusive in watching others. Before you go to the meeting pray, definitely to God to give you some one at the meeting, and then watch for an answer to your prayer. When you have found your man, go for him, and do not let him slip away under any consideration. It is often well to go as quickly as possible to one of the doors of the meeting-house, and without making oneself too prominent, watch people as they come out, and then gently and courteously approach some one, and deal with him about his soul.

There is a great difference in Christian workers. Some seem to never get any one at the close of a meeting unless some one else takes them to them. They wait around with their Bible under their arm for some one to come to them and take them to an inquirer; others keep their eyes open for themselves, and almost always manage to get hold of some one.

In many of the more active churches, the church is divided into sections with an overseer over each division of the church, and individual workers under the overseer. This is an excellent plan. When it is well carried out it prevents any hopeful cases from getting out without being dealt with personally.

II. In Homes

The Apostle Paul tells us that he preached the Gospel not only publicly, but "from house to house" (Acts 20:20). There is far too little Christian work done in the home. The best home to begin with is your own. Jesus bade the

demoniac of Gadara when he was healed to return to his own house and show how great things God had done unto him (Luke 8:39). Every man who is converted should begin to tell the saving power of Christ first in his own home, to his own relatives and friends. Many a mother with her family of children regrets that she has not a wider field of labor for Christ, but she will find one of the grandest of all fields in her own home.

But we should not limit our personal work to our own homes; we should do it in the homes where we visit. In this way those who make us partakers of their hospitality, will entertain angels unaware (Heb. 13:2). A godly man who once visited in the home of Spurgeon's parents, by a few words to the little boy, made an impression upon that boy that went far toward making him the mighty minister of the Gospel that he became in after years.

Then we should do personal work in the houses that we enter in our house-to-house visitation. That man or woman is a poor church visitor who simply makes a pleasant call or talks upon religious generalities. The true visitor will find frequent opportunities for doing effective personal work with some of the inhabitants of the home, or with strangers they may find calling upon them.

III. On the Streets

Here again we have the Apostle Paul for an example. Not only did he reason "in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons,"

but also "in the market place every day with them that met with him" (Acts 17:17, R.V.). As you walk the streets, be listening for the voice of God to say "Go and speak to that man." Very often as one walks the street of a crowded city or the lonely roads of the country, if he is walking with God, the leading will come to speak to some one that he meets by the way, and countless are the souls that have been led out of darkness into light in this way. As you look upon the surging crowd, ask God if there is some one in this crowd with whom He desires you to speak. Sometimes it is well to stand to one side and watch the people as they pass. Soon there will come a face that interests you, a face it may be that tells a story of sin, or sorrow and need. You can quietly follow this person and watch for an opportunity to engage them in conversation, and then point them to the one who says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

IV. In the Parks and Other Resorts

The parks are often full of people who have plenty of leisure and are willing to talk upon almost any subject. Go through the park and find your man, engage him in a conversation, and as quickly as you can, lead him up to the great subject that is burning in your own heart. Oftentimes it is well to begin to talk about matters of passing interest, the burning questions of the day, then lead by the shortest possible route to the great question. Sometimes show the one with whom you are talking a tract, and ask his opinion of it, and this will lead easily to the matter uppermost in your mind. Not infrequently if you sit down in a park some one will come and sit down beside you and begin to talk to you; then of course it is very easy to lead them into a conversation about their own soul's need.

V. On a Walk or Ride

In this we have our Saviour's own example. He made the hearts of the two disciples burn within them while He spoke to them in the way, and opened to them the Scriptures (Luke 24:32). We also have the example of Philip the evangelist. The Spirit bade him go and join himself to the chariot of Queen Candace's treasurer. The treasurer invited him up into the chariot to ride with him, and the memorable conversation and personal dealing that followed led to the conversion and baptism of the treasurer, and the carrying of the Gospel into Ethiopia (Acts 8:29-38). There are few more favorable places to do personal work than on a walk or ride with a friend or even with a stranger.

VI. At the Place of Business

Here again we have the Saviour's example. "As he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him" (Mark 2:14). Of course we ought not to interrupt men and hinder their proper performance of their business duties. Many a workman has rare opportunities to speak with his fellow workmen, sometimes during work hours, sometimes during the noon rest. One of the most earnest Christian ministers I ever knew had been a god-

This editor has just returned from a blessed eight-day Bible conference at the Tennessee Temple Schools and Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Dr. Lee Roberson is the distinguished president and pastor. Great crowds attended, with visitors from many states. We find the Tennessee Temple Schools (Bible school, college, and theological seminary) have enrolled 651 day students this year from thirty-three states and several foreign countries. Graduates of Tennessee Temple Schools, now in its eighth year, are already serving God on mission fields in Europe, Africa, India, West Indies, South America, the Philippine Islands, and Japan. We understand that ninety-five per cent of Tennessee Temple Schools enter full-time Christian work. The prayer

goal of the administration is "that fully fifty per cent of each graduating class will find their way to the field."

If you know students who ought to attend an evangelistic, premillennial, thoroughly fundamental Baptist school, will you send their names to Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee? Expenses are moderate, the teaching is high grade and thorough, the proven results glorious.

you know our address . . .

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so, if you move, be sure to let us know where you are by sending us your old and new addresses (including zone number) five weeks before you make the change. The Post Office will not forward papers unless you send postage.

less employee in a factory, but the man who worked next to him was a Christian, took an interest in his fellow employee's soul, and was instrumental under God in leading him to Christ. I have met a good many from one of the largest business institutions in our city who have been led to Christ by one consecrated young man in the establishment. This young man has since gone as a foreign missionary, but he was used of God to lead many of his fellow employees to Christ before he went.

It is well wherever possible to go into stores and factories and other places of business for the deliberate purpose of leading those who work there to Christ. Of course, as already said, it will not do to interrupt a man at his business, neither will it do generally to deal with him when others are around and listening, nor should he be taken at an hour when he is in a bad temper; but one who has that discretion that God is so ready to give (James 1:5) will find many opportunities for doing the Master's work. It is quite possible oftentimes to drop a word, or even to have a little talk, when there is not a great pressure of business, with the clerk who sells us goods, or with the barber who shaves us, or with the boy who blacks our shoes. There are five marks of a good opportunity; when one is alone, unoccupied, in good humor, communicative and in a serious mood.

VII. On Cars and Boats

Traveling on the steam cars affords a very rare opportunity for personal work. Travelers usually have much time that hangs heavily upon their hands, and are glad to get into conversation with any one; but if one is a real Christian, there is one subject always uppermost in his mind, one subject that he would rather talk about than any other, and that is Jesus Christ. When you get into a train, get as good a seat for yourself as you can, put your coat and grip out of the way, move away over to the farther side of the seat, and make the vacant space beside you look as inviting as possible. If the car is at all crowded, you will soon have a fellow-passenger, and the desired opportunity for personal work. Sometimes it is well to keep your coat and grip in the seat beside you until you see the man or woman that you want coming, and then remove them and move along in a way of silent invitation.

It is well to talk with the trainmen and porters. They are usually willing to talk, and many of them have been led to Christ by Spirit-filled workers who were traveling with them.

Many Christian workers go through trains and give tracts to every one on the train. I am not sure that this is the wisest thing to do, but I know that great blessing has come from it in many cases. Certainly it is well to carry a good supply of religious literature with you when you travel. Some of the books of the Bible Institute Colportage Association are excellent for this purpose, such as e.g., "Probable Sons." People are willing to read almost anything on a train, and these books without any comment oftentimes will lead the reader to Christ, and when they do not do

this, they pave the way for a conversation.

Street cars are not as favorable a place for personal work as steam cars. One does not have the time or opportunity that he does on a train, and yet good work can be done on a street car, both with the passengers and with the motorman and conductor. A minister once said to me,

"I was greatly ashamed last night going down on the street car. I was sitting inside the car talking on unimportant matters with friends, and as I looked to the front end of the car, I saw one member of my church talking with the driver about his soul, and when I looked to the other end of the car I saw another member of my church talking to the conductor, and there I, the pastor of the church, was doing nothing but wasting my time."

VIII. Prisons, Hospitals, and Other Public Institutions

A fine place to do personal work is in public institutions, such as prisons and hospitals, where many people are gathered together and are at leisure from morning till night. Every Sunday, all over this land, devoted men and women are going into prisons, jails and hospitals, carrying the glad tidings of salvation, and thousands are being converted to God through their faithful personal work. Many of the best Christians that I know today were brought to Christ in prison, not so much through the public preaching, as through the personal work of some devoted child of God who went from cell to cell and talked to the men about Christ. But while so much is being done already in this direction, there are many prisons and jails and hospitals where little or nothing is done.

Nurses in hospitals have a rare opportunity of doing personal work in the institutions where they are employed. Fortunately a very large proportion of trained nurses are devoted Christian women, and yet many of them do not realize the opportunities that God has put within their reach. A very unusual opportunity is also open to the Christian physician. Indeed a true Christian physician will oftentimes find opportunities for doing personal work that even the minister of the Gospel cannot find. Sometimes it will be with the patient whom he is treating, sometimes with the relatives and friends of the patient who are in deep anxiety as to the outcome of the sickness.

What has been said does not of course cover all the places where personal work can be done, but it will suggest rich fields of opportunity. To put it in a word, personal work should be done everywhere. We read of the early disciples that "they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word" (Acts 8:4), that is, talking to individuals about Jesus, showing them the word of truth as it is found in the Bible, and leading them to accept it. Every child of God should be at all times on the lookout for opportunities to speak personally to some other man or woman about Christ.

(From PERSONAL WORK, 176 pages, \$2.00. Published by Fleming Revell, used by permission. Order from Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Ill.)
(You may have this tremendous book free. See large ad on page 10 for details.)



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD
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Instantaneous Conversions

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH everlasting life... is passed from death unto life."—John 5:24.

"He that believeth on the Son HATH everlasting life."—John 3:36.

"He that believeth on me HATH everlasting life."—John 6:47.

The moment one puts his trust in Jesus he INSTANTLY has everlasting life. Everybody who is ever saved is saved instantaneously. People are not saved by a process of living right. They are not saved by a process of church ceremonies like confirmation or baptism. People are not saved after a period of probation, "if they hold out faithful." People will not be saved in Heaven on the basis of living a good life here. No, salvation is an instantaneous matter! One who trusts in Christ has everlasting life that very instant, is born again, is a child of God, has his name written down in Heaven, has all his sins laid on Jesus. He is "passed from death unto life." Instantaneous conversions are the only kind of conversions there are.

I. Bible Cases of Instantaneous Conversion

All of us ought to earnestly seek to follow the pattern of the New Testament. Preachers ought to preach like Bible preachers. Christians ought to pray like Bible Christians prayed. And people we preach the Gospel to ought to be saved like they were saved in Bible times. And that means instantaneous conversions.

1. *The dying thief.* The conversion of the dying thief, on a cross beside Jesus, is told in very few words. Luke 23:42 and 43 says: "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." How simple! How quick! The dying thief said, "Lord, remember me," and Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." The very moment the dying sinner turned to Jesus for mercy, he got it! That is instant conversion of one of the most wicked sinners.

2. *Cornelius and his household.* In Acts 10:43 and 44 we are told of the conversion of Cornelius and his entire household. "To him give all the prophets witness that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." The context tells us that these who were converted magnified God and praised Him aloud, both in their own language and at least one other language which the Jews present understood, and Peter knew that they were saved! He had evidently intended to preach a longer sermon, but the moment these earnest enquirers learned that they should put their trust in Jesus, they did, and were instantly saved!

3. *The palsied man let down through the roof to Jesus.* In Capernaum Jesus preached in a home, and four men, bringing one sick with the palsy, carried him on the roof-top, broke up the tiles, and let the man on his pallet down into the room where Jesus was. Mark 2:5 says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Jesus saw their faith, that is, the faith of the four men who carried him and the faith of the palsied man. And instantly He said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." The instant the man believed, he was converted, saved. No matter how old and hardened in sin, no matter how ignorant, the moment he trusted Jesus he was wonderfully converted.

4. *Zacchaeus, the publican.* Zacchaeus was a publican, rich but despised for his sins. He wanted to see Jesus, ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. Jesus saw him and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Zacchaeus hurried down to receive Jesus joyfully and told Jesus he planned to give half of his goods

to the poor and to restore four-fold anything taken by false accusation. Then Luke 19:9 tells us, "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house." Here was the publican already converted, already born again! Jesus told him to come down, that He was going to the home of Zacchaeus for dinner. Joyfully Zacchaeus came down to receive Him. And into that welcoming heart Jesus came that moment to save! Forgiven and forgotten were all the years of crooked dealing, or extortion of the poor. Repentance was a heart matter that took only a second of heart-turning. He was saved before he got to make good on any of his vows. Repentance and faith together came in the same instant; and he, trusting Christ, was saved.

5. *The publican in the temple.* A Pharisee prayed a long prayer, telling God how good he was. But Luke 18:13 and 14 says, "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified..." Here is a man who prayed a prayer of seven words, "God be merciful to me a sinner," turned away and went down to his house already justified, no sins charged against him, gloriously saved! He may not even have said the words aloud. God saw his heart. And the moment he looked in penitent faith to Christ, he was already justified and went home happy. A wonderful example of instantaneous conversion.

6. *The sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee.* Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of Simon the Pharisee. A notoriously sinful woman came in as Jesus reclined on a couch at the meal. She began to weep over His dusty feet till her tears washed them, and then she dried them with the hair of her head. The Pharisee thought that Jesus was no prophet or He would have known about the woman's sin and sent her away. Luke 7:48 tells us that Jesus turned to her and said, "Thy sins are forgiven." And Luke 7:50 tells us, "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." Note that it was not the weeping which saved her, in fact, Jesus indicated that the woman wept over His feet and washed them with tears because she already loved Him so much; she loved much because she had already been forgiven much. The moment she came and trusted, she was forgiven. Her tears were the tears of love and gratitude. Her faith had instantly saved her.

In fact, not once in the Bible are we plainly told that anyone had to keep pleading in order to get saved or go through any process in order to get saved. All the converts in Bible times were saved instantly. It is interesting to note that none of these were even on their knees when saved! The dying thief hung on a cross. Cornelius and his household sat about or stood listening to Peter preach. Zacchaeus was sliding down the tree to receive Jesus joyfully. The palsied man lay on his cot. The publican stood in the temple. The sinful woman stood behind Jesus weeping. People in Bible times just trusted Christ, with penitent hearts, and were instantly saved.

II. Many Scriptures Plainly Say Salvation is Instantaneous

We have seen Bible examples of people who were saved instantly. Now let us see Bible precepts that plainly promise instant salvation to all who believe.

1. John 3:18: "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not be-

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Sword of the Lord
Wheaton, Illinois

lieved in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Here we are told that one who has believed is no longer condemned. He is out from under condemnation for all his sins. They are laid on Jesus. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." But here we are told that "he that believeth not is condemned already." One who has not trusted in Jesus is condemned. The instant one trusts in Christ he is no longer condemned. Condemnation passes away instantly when one believes in Christ in the sense of saying faith, that is relying on Christ for forgiveness.

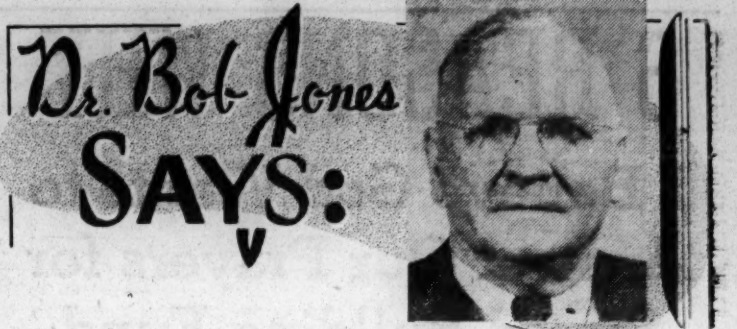
2. John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." One who believes in Christ already that instant has everlasting life. As instantaneously as a flash of God's lightning, God changes the heart and forgives the sin of one who believes in Christ. When you trust Christ, immediately you are already saved. That is instantaneous conversion.

3. John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Here again the Lord Jesus tells us that one who believes, trusting God the Father who sent Jesus into the world to save him, "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Or as the Revised Version puts it, "out of death into life." That is instant salvation.

4. John 6:47: "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Here again in the very words of Jesus we have the statement, "He that believeth on me HATH everlasting life." The moment you put your trust in Jesus you already have everlasting life. Instant salvation!

5. Acts 13:39: "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Paul and Barnabas were in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia and preached to Jews there through Jesus the forgiveness of sins. And their plain statement is that all who believe in Christ are already justified from everything, counted just; Christ was counted a sinner. One who trusts in

(Continued on page 7)



Bob Jones University, which I founded, was never intended to be just a base for the training of educated Christian leaders. It does, of course, train Christian leaders. It has sent to the mission field in the last few years almost 350 missionaries; and all of them, as far as we know, are aggressively evangelistic and are winning souls to Jesus Christ. Some of them are doing a most remarkable work. It has trained a large percentage of the evangelists whose names are making headlines, and these evangelists are preaching in all parts of the country and are leading many thousands to the Lord. Many young men who have gone from Bob Jones University are pastors of churches, and a large group are pastors' assistants. As far as we can observe, most of them are doing a real job for God. We cannot supply the demand for school teachers who are trained in the institution which God led us to found, and some of our best soul winners are the Christian school teachers who were trained in this institution. In several well-known schools, Bob Jones University graduates have executive positions and are helping shape the policies of these schools along the line of the evangelistic emphasis of this University, which I founded twenty-seven years ago.

We thank God for the faithfulness and loyalty of the overwhelming majority of our alumni. We praise God for the work they are doing for the Lord Jesus Christ. But Bob Jones University is more than a training school. It is a base of almost world-wide orthodox, evangelical, evangelistic, Gospel testimony. The devil is not against education. He is not against libraries and scientific laboratories and academic buildings. He is against the fighting, uncompromising, evangelistic emphasis for which Bob Jones University stands. I began my evangelistic career as a boy at the age of fifteen. At that time there was a group of dynamic, uncompromising evangelists in America. Many preachers, Sunday School teachers, and official church members were denouncing these men as "free lances." This used to worry me as a boy. I couldn't understand why men who were out winning souls to Christ were under such attack; but after being an evangelist for fifty-five years, I know now what was the matter. The devil hates any kind of real, aggressive soul-winning emphasis.

I used to be surprised when these great evangelists would draw such large crowds while so many people were criticizing them. But I understand now. The enemies of the Gospel make the noise. They speak out. They fight the Gospel message. There were multiplied thousands of people in this land that wanted just exactly the goods those evangelists were delivering. And there are multiplied thousands of people who want just exactly the thing for which Bob Jones University stands.

We have had the most wonderful letters in recent months we have ever read. People have said, "We are praying for you." Somebody said, "My son came home from Bob Jones University a new person." As I have gone from place to place, mothers who are graduates of Bob Jones University have held up their little babies and asked us to keep the school like it is until their babies are old enough to come to school. Thank God for the wonderful, faithful Christians all over the world who are loyal to the Gospel for which Bob Jones University always stands. Our business is not to please the world. The friendship of the world is enmity to God.

Please Mention
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
When Answering Advertisements

The business of preachers and churches and Christian schools is to stand unflinchingly for the Gospel of the grace of God. This world has the blood of the Son of God on its hands. The world chose Barabbas, a terrible criminal, instead of the Lord Jesus Christ, even though the judge who tried Him said he could find nothing wrong with Him. Yes, the world today is taking what the world has to offer instead of the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Whom God gave to die on the cross to save sinners.

Any Christian institution, whether it be a church or a school, that stands uncompromisingly for the Lord Jesus Christ has to take on the enemies of Jesus and the enemies of the glorious Gospel of the saving grace of God. Yes, Jesus has enemies, and He also has friends. He said definitely and clearly, "He that is not with Me is against Me." The greatest mistake any institution that calls itself Christian can possibly make is to try to appease the world instead of endeavoring to please God. The world will respect an uncompromising Christian, but unregenerated men are enemies of the blood of Christ and the Gospel of God's saving grace.

Bob Jones University has a charter and by-laws that make it mandatory that the school be run as it has been run for twenty-seven years, or the school will have to be closed. Bob Jones University is not going to surrender. It is not going to try to please the world. It is going to stand foursquare for the Lord Jesus Christ and fight on His side and the side of the Gospel of His saving grace. It is not only going to stand for the Gospel, but it is going to stand for the Christian philosophy of life. Certainly we are going to maintain high academic standards. We always have had high academic standards. We must have the highest possible academic standards to do the work God has called the University to do. When Jesus Christ is put in first place in a school, everything else takes its proper place.

We want to thank all of you Christian people who pray for Bob Jones University. Keep on praying. We are living in days when it is difficult to stand; but we read in the Bible, "Having done all to stand." There is going to be no appeasing and no compromising and no surrendering. We are going to keep going down the road just as we have been traveling for twenty-seven years. We thank God for a faithful Board of Trustees. This Board is composed of intelligent men and women who know the inside workings of this school, and they are familiar with the by-laws that govern the operation of the institution, and they know the school is being run according to those by-laws. We have a group of executives who are going to be faithful to their responsibilities. They are going to keep the school right; and they must keep it right, according to the by-laws; or they can't be executives in the institution.

Now, remember, we want you to pray for us. We have no difficulty getting students who want what we have, but we want you Christian people to help us find the right kind of young people that can be trained to be strong and fearless Christian leaders, for that is the need of our day. We are also asking you to invest some of God's money in the work the University is doing. You can have a part in this work. We need more buildings, and we need money for our Student Loan Endowment and Missionary Fund. We are counting on you. Let us hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

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6 REASONS WHY I Believe God Wants to Answer Our Prayers for Sword Building Fund

Rev. Walter E. Handford, Vice-President
Sword of the Lord Foundation

Just the other day I passed Mr. J. A. Reinhardt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church here in Wheaton. You remember that we are purchasing the property on which the Presbyterian Church is now located. This property is to be used for a new Sword of the Lord Foundation office building here in Wheaton. We made an initial payment of \$5,000 last October and \$17,000 on January 1. The total price for the property which we are buying from the Presbyterian Church organization is \$66,000. The remaining \$44,000 of this must be paid by August 1.

As I passed Mr. Reinhardt on the street, he asked me how our Building Fund plan was progressing. I told him it was coming along fine, but in my heart I must confess that there was a serious problem about the matter. Isn't it strange how soon we forget how good the Lord is to us and how He answers our prayers? On this matter, I know that God can answer our prayers and can send us the \$44,000 in a little over two months but it will be the biggest physical miracle that I have ever personally seen the Lord do. Since talking with Mr. Reinhardt and being so concerned about the matter of the Building Fund, my own heart has been turning over a number of reasons why we can expect God to answer our prayer about this Building Program and send the \$44,000 by August 1 when it is needed. I thought that it might be good if I shared these reasons with you so that you might have faith to believe God and pray with us about this matter. Here are six of the reasons why I believe God wants to answer our prayer.

I. Because God Delights to Answer Prayer

Psalms 65:2 tells us, "O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." Here we see one of the most wonderful sides of God's character. In the Scripture here we find that one of the names of God is "O thou that hearest prayer." God delights to be known as the heavenly Father who wants to answer our prayers when we bring our earnest requests to Him. Remember Matthew 7:11 tells us, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" How frequently we must grieve the Lord by not accepting at face value the fact that He wants to be our heavenly Father and watch over our needs and problems.

About this matter, then, of the Building Fund, I believe that God wants to prove Himself to us and to answer our prayers even in this large amount of money that is needed.

II. Because We Believe That Our Prayer Is According to God's Will

For months before we signed the contract to buy this piece of property from the Presbyterian Church organization, we had special prayer meetings and had sought earnestly from the Lord what His wisdom and will was about our future building plans. First of all, the Board of Directors had perfect peace and unity of heart about this piece of property when it was brought to our attention. Then, too, those of us who work here at the Sword of the Lord had special seasons of prayer about this matter. It was our unanimous decision that this was what God's will for us was.

Then, the Lord has so wonderfully answered our prayer thus far in providing the money that we know that He wouldn't have misled us about this and then let us down when the August 1st payment is due.

The Lord Jesus Himself tells us

in John 14:14, "If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

III. Because Past Experience Proves That We Can Depend on Our Heavenly Father

David, when he was on in years, could say, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." David knew from personal experience of proving the Lord through the years that God always takes care of His own and always supplies our needs. Paul could say to the Philippians, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). In Psalm 105, in enumerating all of the works that He had done for the children of Israel, David says by inspiration, "Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders and the judgments of his mouth." Frequently, the Lord reminded the children of Israel of all the many, many wonderful things that He had done for them in the past. He urged them to trust Him for the future.

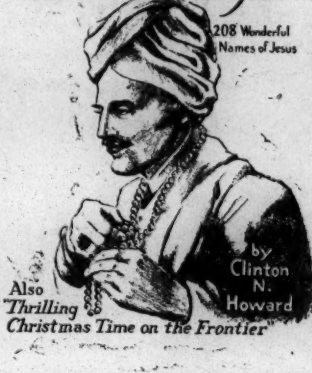
Now then, about this matter of the Building Fund, I believe we can trust the Lord because of past indications of God's favor. One of the things that I learned early in my work here at THE SWORD OF THE LORD soon after I came nine years ago was that this was a place where we depended implicitly on the Lord to supply all of our needs. How well I remember from reading Dr. Rice's book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*, the chapter on "Big Prayers to an Almighty God." There Dr. Rice told of a special urgent need of the work for \$920. Dr. Rice went off to a revival meeting in the Midwest. The offering that he received there for his ministry was very, very meager and he knew that God had to supply the need for \$920 to pay printing bills and other expenses. As he was on his way home on the train he received a telegram telling him that he had just received a check for \$1,000 for the work.

Since reading that chapter I have seen God work literal miracles in providing for our needs here. How well I remember one time when we had to have \$6,900 to pay for a carload of paper. We had contracted for the paper when newsprint was very, very difficult to obtain. We knew THE SWORD OF THE LORD must go out and by faith contract to purchase the paper although we did not have the money to pay for it. We came up to the very day on which the bill had to be paid and still did not have the money. God in a very wonderful way sent that morning a letter from a godly man in California. In the letter this dear brother told us that he had some money which he wanted to invest for the Lord. I called him and found that the Lord had laid it on his heart to send us \$7,500 for this work of faith.

Even in this Building Fund project we have seen God do wondrous things. Last December when we came up to within two weeks of the time when we needed the \$17,000 to pay on this property for the new building we had only about \$5,000. With only two weeks

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to go we still needed \$12,000. What a thrill it was to watch God work and send in the \$12,000 in those two short weeks! Therefore, because we have seen God do such wonderful things in the past, we believe that for Him to provide the \$44,000 for this payment of August 1 is absolutely possible and completely in keeping with what He has done before. How sad it would be if God could send \$17,000 in 1953 for this special need and not be able to raise \$44,000 this year for the same project.

IV. Because Through the Years We Have Stood True to Christ

God tells us, "For them that honour me I will honour." Though it has sometimes cost us friends through the years, Dr. Rice and the workers here have stayed true to Jesus Christ and made a fight for the fundamentals of the faith. I have heard Dr. Rice tell with tears how that when a certain group with whom he was associated wavered on the matter of the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, Dr. Rice took up the fight and overnight lost the friends of a lifetime for Jesus' sake. Time and again when it has meant abuse and personal loss, Dr. Rice has been quick to stand up for the Word of God when questions arose. I believe that because THE SWORD OF THE LORD has stood true to Jesus Christ that He is going to vindicate our faith in Him and provide the new building and necessary equipment to do His work in the most effective way.

V. Because THE SWORD OF THE LORD Has Put the Most Important Things First

The thing which is dearest to the heart of the Saviour is the matter of soul winning and revival. You will remember that Jesus said, "I am come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He told us that there was more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner that repented than over the ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance. Throughout His ministry Jesus emphasized the most important matters of seeing people converted. Just before He went back up to Heaven the Great Commission tells us that we are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel unto every creature.

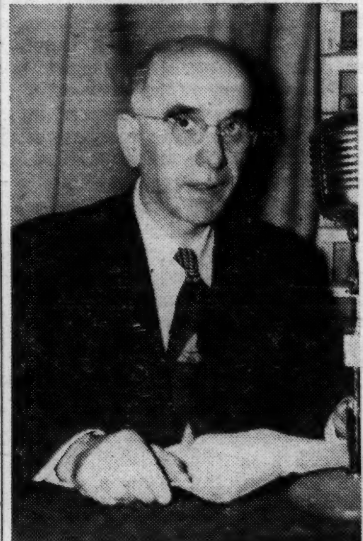
Through the years soul winning and revival have been the main emphasis of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and Dr. Rice's ministry. Dr. Rice has not gone off on tangents about prophecy or other things that were not helping directly

(Continued on page 8)

Noteworthy NEWS Notes

WTAN, THE VOICE OF TANGIER, is now on the air. This full-time Christian Broadcasting Station is reaching into the heart of Europe. The initial power is 2500 watts short wave. By means of excellent directional antennas it is possible to reach virtually any part of Europe and North Africa.

According to well-informed sources, approximately 3/4 (42,000,000) of the short wave sets of the world are in Western Europe. At present, programs are going out in Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, English with Russian, Swedish, Slavic languages and others to be added shortly. Broadcasts will soon be sent behind the Iron Curtain.



Rev. Ralph Freed

The financial burden in starting such a program is great. There is no particular backing, but they are trusting God's people to rally to the support. Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Freed, B.P.O. Box 347, Tangier, North Africa, veteran missionaries to the Near East, are in charge of this work. Five workers are with them and more are to be added shortly.

God has provided a beautiful 14-acre piece of property overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar, with two buildings used for recording studios, mailing follow-up literature and a base for the workers. This property is being leased with the opportunity of buying it at about 1/5 of market value when the \$15,000 needed to purchase it is provided.

Tangier stands at the crossroads of the world, just 20 minutes by plane from Gibraltar and it is the vision of Paul Freed, president of International Evangelism Inc., located at 3812 Kirby Drive, Greensboro, North Carolina, the head of this work, that in the not too-distant future this will be not only a base from which radio messages go out, and follow up work carried on, but also a great center for Christian conferences and activities in that part of the world. In showing the great potential of this station, Mr. Freed points out, for example, that Spain is only 23 miles from Tangier, a country of 29,000,000 people with over 1,100,000 short wave sets without a single 15-minute Gospel broadcast. The possibilities are unlimited.

From Sea to Sea!

With recent permission to enter Somalia (formerly Italian Somaliland) the Sudan Interior Mission now has stations stretching from the South Atlantic Ocean on the West of Africa to the Indian Ocean on the East, working in eight fields including Aden (Arabia).

With stations in Liberia, Nigeria, French West Africa, Sudan, Ethiopia and now Somalia, the chain of Gospel lighthouses stretches across the widest part of Africa.

Wesley's Boyhood Home to Be Razed

LONDON.—(RNS)—John Wesley's boyhood home, Epworth Rectory near Doncaster, Yorkshire, is to be razed and replaced

by a new ministerial residence, it has been decided by Methodist leaders.

The 244-year-old rectory was completed late in 1709 to replace the one in which the founder of Methodism was born and which was destroyed by fire earlier that year. Young Wesley, then six years old, narrowly escaped the fire.

Methodist officials said the building is too large and its maintenance too expensive in its present state and that modernization would be too costly.

Donald Grey Barnhouse, editor of *Eternity Magazine* and pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia will be married in early summer to Mrs. Margaret Nuckols Bell, of Bradenton, Florida.

NEWS COLUMNIST Betty Beale, in a Washington dispatch, recently said:

"The first White House evening reception in eight years turned out to be the first White House reception since prohibition times to offer no liquid spirits of any description."

"No body would ever call the President or Mrs. Eisenhower the preachy or austere type, yet they have broken a precedent where official parties are concerned. The 1,419 guests who attended the diplomatic reception found that not even the cork had been dipped into the punch that sparkled in two bowls and gurgled from a fountain."

FT. WORTH, TEXAS—A company has been formed here to make loans of \$50,000 or more to churches. Mr. A. B. Culbertson announced that his firm, A. B. Culbertson and Company, will consider loans to churches in any state and churches of any faith.

I Have Met --

People who talk about prayer, but who never pray.
People who say tithing is right, but who do not tithe.
People who say that the Bible is God's Word to man, and yet who do not read it.
People who stay away from church for trivial reasons, and they sing, "O How I Love Jesus."

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REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

SWORD STAFF EVANGELIST
JIMMIE THRELFALL was with the West Chicago Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, March 29-April 11. The pastor writes: "We had over forty decisions in the two weeks, with about half for salvation and most of the rest for restoration and dedication of life. There were some wonderful victories. The closing Sunday was the most blessed day we have ever experienced in our church, with twenty-three coming forward on the invitations." This was the church's second meeting with Brother Threlfall. Easter Sunday the church had 490 in Sunday School, a new record.

EVANGELIST JOSEPH T. LARSON, Baptist, of 4203 Alcott Street, Denver 21, Colorado, closed a 15-day revival with Donald Smith Memorial Baptist Church, Oak Lawn, Illinois, on Easter Sunday. About forty came for salvation, several for restoration, and eight stepped out for full-time service, with many for consecration. Pastor and people seemed pleased with the revival.

Mr. Larson has some time available June 22 over July 4, also next fall and winter.

The First Baptist Church of Russellville, Alabama, had as its recent evangelist, **EVANGELIST MAX MORRIS**. The pastor, Rev. George H. Jackson, writes that forty-three came on profession of faith and for baptism, and twenty-three joined the church by letter, giving sixty-six additions to the church. Many more came to dedicate their lives for Christian service. The pastor recommends Brother Morris highly to any church wanting a good revival. (We are sorry, but just now we do not have the evangelist's address at hand.)

EVANGELIST CLIFF ROBINSON, 1707 Kirby Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee, was with Rev. G. E. Presley and the Latham Baptist Church of Latham, Illinois, March 23 through April 4. During this meeting there were four who came into the church on a profession of faith, and nine young people surrendered their lives to be used of the Lord in a special youth service.

EVANGELIST MONROE (Monk) Parker, 213 Bradley Blvd., Greenville, South Carolina, reports the following campaigns conducted by himself and Herb Hoover, song leader: Calvary Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio, March 19-28; First Baptist Church, Coatsville, Pennsylvania, March 29-April 11. Dr. Parker reports that in each of these campaigns genuine revival came to the church, and that many came for salvation and rededication. Following the Coatsville meetings, Dr. Parker went for a pre-Easter meeting to the New Market Baptist Church, New Market, Virginia, and Mr. Hoover went to preach in a meeting at Dayton, Ohio.

Northside Baptist Church, Miami, Florida, concluded a 13-day revival on Easter Sunday with **EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD**, 4521 Jarboe, Kansas City, Missouri. The pastor is Rev. O. C. Thurmond, who writes that it was a great revival in every way. April 11 there were 440 in Sunday School. When the evangelist preached to the Sunday School, 52 came forward for salvation. "A dozen or so were received by letter, fourteen were received for baptism, and more than 60 professions were made," he writes.

Two weeks of evangelistic services were concluded April 4 at Calvary Baptist Tabernacle, Salisbury, Maryland with **EVANGELIST BOB MANDERSON**, converted night club entertainer. The pastor is Rev. Arthur M. Doepp. He reports 75 decisions recorded during the revival; with about 30 new members added to the church.

EVANGELIST JACK YOST, R.

D. 2, Berwick, Pennsylvania, has just finished a good revival at Roaring Brook Baptist Church, Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania. Ten souls were saved, and several rededications. The pastor is Rev. H. H. Wilson.

MIAMI, Fla.—More than 85,000 persons attended a two-week "Crusade for Christ" conducted in Bayfront Park here by a five-man team of lay evangelists who financed the revival entirely from their own pockets (Action April 15).

During the campaign, sponsored by the sixty-one member churches of the Miami Baptist Association, many persons made "decisions for Christ," officials said. This and the total attendance made the revival the "biggest religious event in Miami's history," they said.

Leader of the crusade was Howard E. Butt, Jr., youthful Corpus Christi, Tex., supermarket magnate who has become known as "God's Groceryman" because he spends six months a year preaching.

Why Observe It?

(Continued from page 1)

ship for Jesus Christ, a new sense of the Wonderful Jesus we have as Saviour!

Added to this marvelous address is a story, "A Thrilling Christmas On the Frontier." It is a tender Christmas story of poverty, of prayer, of a wonderful answer, of strengthened faith. You cannot read it without a tear in the eye, a lump in the throat and a glad consecration in the heart!

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I know the blessing you will get from this pamphlet. Please write for yours at once. Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois.

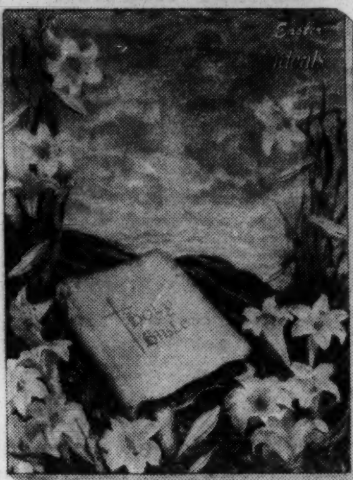
3. Which Do You Want? "Angel Unaware"? "Easter Ideals"? "How to Obtain Fullness of Power"? Or My Own Book, "All About Christian Giving"? Free With \$5 Order or Gift

Yes, with every cash retail order for books of \$5 or more, every subscription order of \$5 or more, every \$5 gift to the Sword Building Fund or Free Literature Fund, we will send you your choice of the following books: You may have:

(1.) *Angel Unaware*, a heart-moving story of little Robin Rogers, the afflicted baby of cowboy Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Rogers. The book, written by Mrs. Rogers who is a devout Christian, tells how she imagines little two-year old Robin reported to the heavenly Father after she went to Heaven. With the tender thoughts of a bereaved mother, with spiritual understanding of how God had dealt with her cowboy, movie star husband, Dale Evans Rogers will touch your heart and bring you closer to God. You will read through misty eyes. The book is already a famous best seller with 300,000 copies now published. But you may have it free with every \$5 cash retail order.

(2.) Or you may want the beautiful magazine, *Easter Ideals*. It has a hundred pages. It is full of pictures, big full-color pictures. It has Scriptures, poems, pictures of the crucifixion, the resurrection of Christ, and the wonderful events connected with it. It has poems and pictures about spring, the flowers, birds, trees, streams, the fields. This big magazine with plastic-covered paper covers, size 8½x11 inches, is really the most beautiful thing you ever saw. You have never seen more beautiful pictures or tender poetry. It is an ideal gift for a sick friend, or a gift to bring a hostess, or to comfort anybody in trouble. By all means see this wonderful magazine. You may have it free, if you prefer, for each \$5 cash retail order. Take your choice.

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FREE, this Ideals, a large book of beautiful colored pictures, poems, Scriptures on Easter and springtime—beautiful beyond description... with any \$5 retail order, subscription, or gift during Letter Month.

Sword of the Lord
 Wheaton, Illinois

has a hundred pages. It is full of pictures, big full-color pictures. It has Scriptures, poems, pictures of the crucifixion, the resurrection of Christ, and the wonderful events connected with it. It has poems and pictures about spring, the flowers, birds, trees, streams, the fields. This big magazine with plastic-covered paper covers, size 8½x11 inches, is really the most beautiful thing you ever saw. You have never seen more beautiful pictures or tender poetry. It is an ideal gift for a sick friend, or a gift to bring a hostess, or to comfort anybody in trouble. By all means see this wonderful magazine. You may have it free, if you prefer, for each \$5 cash retail order. Take your choice.

(3.) Or you may want the fine book by the famous evangelist, R. A. Torrey, *How to Obtain Fullness of Power*. Thousands have bought it for \$1.50 each. It is full of life-changing Bible teaching and preaching. It has a two-color, library hard binding, and will be read and treasured for years, lent to others for blessing. Do you prefer it to one of the above for every cash retail book order, subscription order or gift of \$5 or more? Just take your choice!

(4.) Or you may have the book, *All About Christian Giving*, 174 pages, thirteen chapters, by Editor John R. Rice. This book has lovely paper binding, and we want you to have it. It will answer your questions about tithing, about giving, about free-will offerings, about "storehouse tithing." It will show whether you can afford to tithe, will give the promises of God about it, will give instructions on how to do it. We believe it will lead to fuller consecration and great spiritual blessing.

Now take your choice of these four books mentioned, free with every \$5 cash retail order or subscriptions or gift to Sword of the Lord work.

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We have picked out eleven of our most popular books of sermons, sermons that are thoroughly scriptural, sermons written in the power of the Holy Spirit, sermons that will be used of God to save souls and transform Christians into happy soul winners and mature saints. They sell for from \$1.50 to \$2. Most of them are \$2 books. But you may have any four of these books for \$4.75, plus 25c postage—a total of only \$5 for any four of these books postpaid. They are:

Bob Jones Revival Sermons.
 (Continued on page 7)

WE WANT Yours!

The existence of THE SWORD depends on letters. And how they come!—about a thousand a day: fat letters, lean letters, typewritten letters, handwritten letters, white letters, pink letters, green letters; letters from country folk and city folk; letters from the north and from the south, from over the seas. We rejoice over them, praise God for them, sometimes weep and pray over them!

But we want your letter! No other will take its place during May, our Letter Month. How else can we know whether you have been helped this year? Whether you are behind us in what we are trying to do? Whether some precious soul has been saved? Whether some important problem in your life has been solved... or needs solving; whether your love for the Saviour has been increased?

We are waiting!

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Help them make it

"FOR BETTER"



A man and his wife-to-be stand before God and men, to wed each other. The bride's mother is tearful. Her father stands alone, a little desolate, having given away one of his dearest possessions. In quiet voices, they promise, "For better or for worse."

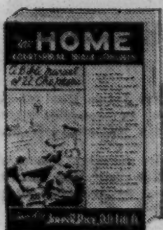
Which will it be—better or worse? They want, and expect, their marriage to be Heaven on earth. But such homes are not guaranteed by the vows so solemnly pledged tonight. They are molded by daily, meticulous attention to the standards God has set down in the Bible. The real tragedy lies in the fact that this man and woman may not know how to have a happy, Christ-like home.

No doubt you know someone who is being married in this lovely month of weddings. Why not give them Dr. John R. Rice's book on the Home to help them establish the kind of home they really want?

THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children

Twenty-two chapters on courtship, principles of successful marriage, man as God's head of the home, relationship of wife to husband, normal sex life, the blessing of children, birth control, discipline, family worship, character building, cooperation with church, school, and community, adultery, divorce, and how to make Christ the head of the home.

328 large pages, sturdy scarlet cloth binding, complete with marriage certificate — \$2.50



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Wheaton, Illinois

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

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"You May Buy With Confidence From Our Advertisers"

"But I Wrote Last Year"

By Grace Rice MacMullen, Circ. Mgr.

I know what some of you said when you saw the announcement of Letter Month in *The Sword of the Lord*!

"Letter month again! My, I scraped the bottom of the barrel last year—I just don't have anything else to say!"

"I'd like to write them—I enjoy *The Sword*—but I just can't express myself well. I guess I'll have to leave it to the educated people to take advantage of Letter Month!"

"So it's Letter Month at the Sword! Wish I had time—there's lots I could tell them if I only had time to get a letter off!"

"Letter Month.... let's see.... what could I say? Guess I just don't have anything to write them about. But I sure would love to have that free booklet!"

Well, as some people say, I've got news for you! You are just the ones we want to hear from—you who don't have time to write, you who wrote last year, you who think you can't express yourself well—you who don't know what to say! And maybe I can make a suggestion or two which will make it easier for you to get your Letter Month letter into the mail and qualify you for your free twenty-four page pamphlet, *Pearls of Paradise*. It is a lovely book, with one of the most beautifully written messages I have read, and I know you will want to add to your library. We want to hear from you, and so here is a little blue-print which will help you to get your letter ready. Don't say, "I'll do it next week," because next week comes all too soon, and before you know it, it will be too late to write and have a part in Letter Month. Then you will regret missing the free pamphlet, and you will feel like you have not done quite right by failing to take part in this Sword activity.

So get out a piece of paper and fountain pen, pencil, ball point or typewriter, right now. Write at the top, "Dear Brother Rice," or "Dear Friends at the Sword," and let's get started on this Letter Month letter!

Now, what to say? Well, maybe there has been one outstanding article which has blessed you more than others. Won't you mention it? Your opinion on the articles is important to Dr. Rice, because

it will guide him in choosing material for future issues of *THE SWORD*, to know which ones are a particular blessing to readers of *THE SWORD*. Though you may feel your opinion is only one, a number of letters taken together give a pretty accurate picture of how a particular article or series of articles is received. How did you like the recent series on Dr. Nels Ferre? Do you feel like Christians need to know such things? Was it a special help in your life? Did you send the paper to a young person who particularly needed that kind of information?

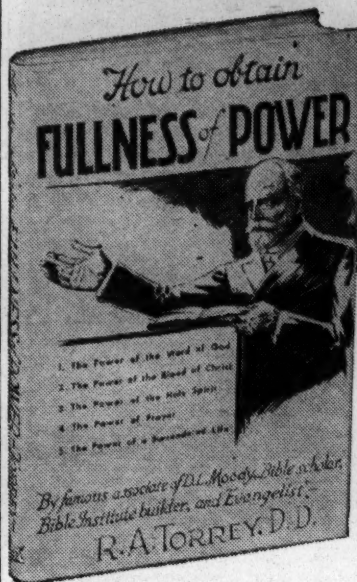
Or has it been "Miracles of Science" which you particularly enjoyed? Those articles are certainly well written and they include a lot of little known facts which make fascinating reading for young people—and bring a spiritual lesson too.

Maybe your favorites are the messages by the men of the past. Maybe you have enjoyed sermons by leading evangelists of today. Whatever your preference, why don't you just say so? Let us know which articles have helped you the most in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*.

How's that for a starter? Do you have one paragraph of your letter written now? Good!

Still having trouble? Well, let's see what else you can write about. Maybe you can't remember an article which has stood out in your mind, and you think they have

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Sword of the Lord
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all been a blessing. Maybe you just want to say, "Brother Rice, I am for you. I appreciate the work you are doing and I am on your side." That is one of the nicest kind of letters we receive. Everyone of us need some encouragement in the job he is doing, and the editor of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* is no exception. You have no idea how much it means to him to have people say simply that they are behind him and appreciate the work he is doing. So if your sheet of paper is still blank, you might add a statement to that effect.

Do you pray for the editor? It is his earnest desire that all the thousands of readers of *THE SWORD*

Preaching ~ Power ~ Promotion



"...the word of the Lord... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."—Zech. 4:6

By Dr. D. A. (Scotchie) McCall
Minister of Revival Promotion,
Sword of the Lord Foundation

I.

Ten More Weeks Until....?

It is ten weeks now until we make the \$44,000 final payment on the permanent location of the

OF THE LORD do so. If you do, why don't you tell him so? He is deeply moved and pleased when people say, "Dr. Rice, I pray for you every day. I have been asking God to help you and to make the paper a blessing, and I feel that He will." If you pray for the editor and for the many phases of the work at *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, tell us about it! It will be a real help and encouragement.

There is one kind of letter which gets a lot of appreciation and attention here. There is one kind that we pass around from desk to desk and smile and enjoy for days. Those are the letters that tell us about people who have trusted Christ through *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, or through the books and booklets published by Sword of the Lord Publishers. Do you know of a case like that you can tell us about? Maybe some of you reading this have found Christ through *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, and yet you have never written in to tell us about it. Why don't you write us a letter about it? That, as I said, is the very best kind of letters we receive and we are always thrilled by them. Maybe you know of somebody next door, or a deacon in your church, or a

(Continued on page 8)

building that is to house all the offices of the Sword of the Lord. It is a big occasion. It is a worthy project. Our offerings should "pick up" as we near this date. The sum of \$44,000 is considerable in amount. The more we raise and give now the less we will have to raise just before August 1.

A big anniversary year is upon us. It is significant. Do your best NOW!

II.

In Alabama

For eight days I was in Citronelle, Alabama, preaching His Gospel. The pastor, Dr. Homer Robertson, is a friend of many years. He held leading pastorates in Mississippi. He served on my mission board and helped achieve "mountainous" victories. He has a fine family.

Every courtesy was shown us at the Camellia Courts, by some strong Christian laymen in lovely homes. God blessed with about a dozen professions and additions, plus some consecrations. The most significant thing probably was the large number pledging to do soul winning, who statedly had not been doing it.

III.

Jessie and Sandy

Say, you saw that lovely wedding picture in the recent issue of *THE SWORD*, of course. I refer to Jessie and Sandy—two of the grandest young people I have met. I have watched them work, seen them at fellowship hours, and travelled with them. They are all right—fine Christians.

Dr. and Mrs. Rice have six splendid daughters. God blesses them further with outstanding Christian husbands for these daughters as wedding bells occasionally ring. Doxology!

IV.

In Wisconsin-Minnesota

At this writing I am with seven groups in Superior, Wisconsin, in a fine Bible conference at First Baptist Church. The congregations and interest grow. Some Bible-believing pastors and people! Doxology! They asked us to extend the time of the meeting through Sunday night from Friday night which I am happy to do.

The afternoon of this writing I am to speak at the Duluth Bethel Society, Duluth, Minnesota.

V.

In Florida

Friends have been after us to hold extra meetings in Central Florida, so plans are fast developing for a revival series at Bartow, Florida, starting Sunday, May 30th (if plans are completed in time—if not, then June 6). All of you in that entire area will want to get into this old-fashioned Gospel effort.

The first three grown people I met there were unsaved. I talked to a pastor of a holiness group with plans almost complete for a tabernacle seating 2,000 people. The opportunities are there!

I am glad that the First Baptist Church, along with some others, seems to be doing big business for our Saviour.

VI.

A Worthy Offering

I want to make another worthy offering to the Sword of the Lord Building Fund, don't you? Definitely plan for it NOW! Make it NOW! Remember, \$44,000 must be in hand before August 1. It will not be long.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

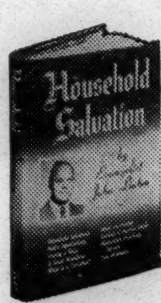
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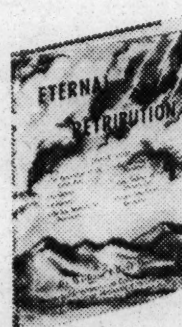
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Use order blank on page 8 today!

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Why Observe It?

(Continued from page 5)

preached in Chicago Arena by Bob Jones, Sr.;

Bread From Bellevue Oven, by Dr. Robert G. Lee;

Old-Time Religion, by Joe Henry Hankins;

Household Salvation, by Dr. John Linton;

Eternal Retribution, by Wm. E. Munsey;

The Heavyweight Champion Who Lost His Title, by Evangelist Bill Rice;

When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets, by Dr. John R. Rice;

Revival Appeals, by Dr. John R. Rice;

The Scarlet Sin, by Dr. John R. Rice;

We Can Have Revival Now, by Dr. John R. Rice;

Immanuel, by Dr. John R. Rice.

4. Gratitude Should Move Every Spiritual Christian to Write This Month

The Scripture says, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things" (Gal. 6:6). Those who have been taught by THE SWORD OF THE LORD ought to communicate (not only to write but to share) with those of us who work so hard to get out the Gospel here.

When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one of them returned to give

thanks, "And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger" (Luke 17: 17, 18).

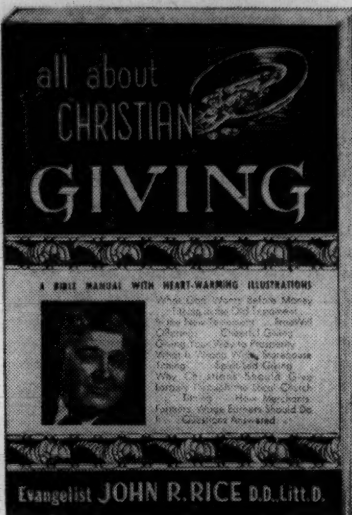
Jesus said that would give glory to God for a man to come back and thank Him for the healing. Surely it would be honorable and right, and would glorify God for all who have received blessings from THE SWORD OF THE LORD and from our books to write and say so. Send your letter.

And I beg you, if you are burdened about revival, if you are really concerned about winning souls, if you really believe in the fundamentals of the faith and in our defense of the faith, then set out to pray daily for this editor and his helpers. And will you write and tell me so?

I cannot think of anything better than that thousands of readers today would make a holy vow to hold up this editor and his staff in daily prayer, and to write and tell us so! We want your prayers more than we want your orders or your gifts. God will see about the rest of it if we pray as we ought. Will you set out to pray for us daily and write to say so?

Now address your letters to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois, but do it today! Letter Month closes midnight, June 1.

FREE- During Letter Month



FREE, this 174-page book by Editor John R. Rice . . . with any \$5 retail order, subscription, or gift during Letter Month.

Sword of the Lord Wheaton, Illinois

writing to some who were disputing his authority. So he settles the matter once and for all and forever when he says, "Paul, an apostle, (not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)" (Gal. 1:1). And later he says in the same chapter, "For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11, 12).

This Gospel is not the gospel of men. It is the Gospel of God. It did not grow out of the slowly unfolding experience of the human race, nor is it the product of man's earthly wisdom. It is a revelation. It is an unfolding of the Divine heart, and purpose, and mind. Paul said, "I have delivered unto you that which I also received."

Now that is a fact of tremendously importance. It is tremendously important to:

1. *Those Who Declare the Gospel*
We can declare it with assurance and conviction and certainty.

Some time ago I was visiting a woman who was sad and depressed and I quoted some of the precious promises in the Word in an effort to comfort her. After listening she said, "Well, it's all very well for you to talk like that." I said, "But I'm not talking like that. This is God talking. This is His Word."

And it was because they believed that, beloved, that the writers of this Book speak as they do. They talk about the most uncertain things in the most assured and certain manner.

In his first epistle John says, "... we KNOW that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him." How did he know that? Only because God told him.

In his second letter, Peter is talking about the end of the world and he says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up." How could he know that unless God told him?

In his second letter to the Corinthians Paul says, "For we know that if this earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building." How could he know that? How can we know anything about what happens when our body dissolves? Why, God told him. This is His Word.

2. *It Is Tremendously Important to Those Of Us Who Hear the Gospel*
This is a terribly confused and uncertain age. Man's inventions are bringing him to the brink of disaster. New philosophies are destroying his moral and spiritual foundations. Fear is gripping him

Instantaneous Conversions

(Continued from page 3)

Christ is counted righteous, that is, is justified. And when does justification happen? It happens the very moment one believes. One who believes is already justified. That is instant salvation.

When the Scripture uses other terms about salvation for the familiar word *believe*, always the Bible speaks of instant salvation. When one repents it is an instant turning of the heart, not a period of doing penance, as our Catholic friends have been taught. If the Bible says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), then it does not mean the coming of walking down an aisle, or of going to church. No, it means the heart's coming to Jesus, which is an instantaneous matter. And when the heart says, "I come!" the Lord Jesus says, "I receive!" The acceptance is in the same instant as the coming.

When the Scripture says, "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13), it does not refer to formal prayers. No, God means here only the heart-cry of faith. For in the following verse we are told, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" One who calls on God for mercy in audible prayer has already trusted in the heart and so that outward words of prayer are only the expression of a heart faith

that has already gained salvation, the instant one believed.

All the teaching of the Bible is that people are saved instantly.

III. What Instantaneous Conversions Prove

The kind of salvation that one gets instantly is an entirely different kind of salvation from any that one would get bit by bit, as a slow process. The very fact that Bible salvation is an instant salvation shows what kind of salvation it is. Let us see, then, what instant salvation proves.

1. *Salvation is not by man's works.* Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight." Galatians 3:11 says, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Many, many other Scriptures make it clear that it is not by doing good deeds, that is, obeying the laws of God, that people get converted. Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." And the very fact that salvation is instantaneous proves it could not be by works. What works could a man do in a fraction of a second that would attain salvation? All he can

(Continued on page 8)

The Gospel

(Continued from page 1)

out of which it can never come. And He hath been raised according to the Scriptures—in the way in which the Scriptures said He would be raised. "For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption" (Ps. 16:10). And in the resurrection God manifested His acceptance of the atonement which the Lord had made, and demonstrated the power by which He will complete that which He has begun. These are the three facts, each of which is vital.

The symbol of the Christian faith is the cross, which I think is somewhat unfortunate. The Christian faith has more than a cross. Along with the cross it has

an empty tomb and a risen Lord. If the Lord Jesus Christ had stayed in the grave, there would have been no Christian faith. When Mary came to the tomb and found it empty, she wept. But she would have had more cause for tears if she had not found it empty. A dead Christ is no Saviour. Annie Johnson Flint caught that truth when she wrote her poem, "Let Us Go On."

*Some of us stay at the Cross,
Some of us wait at the tomb,
Quickened and raised together
with Christ*

Yet lingering still in the gloom.

*If the Christ Who died had stopped
at the Cross,*

His work had been incomplete.

*If the Christ Who was buried had
stayed in the tomb,*

He had only known defeat.

*But the way of the cross never
stops at the Cross,*

*And the way of the tomb leads on
To victorious grace in the heavenly
place,*

Where the risen Lord has gone.

Yes, the way of the cross never stops at the cross. The death of the Lord Jesus must be linked with His burial and resurrection. The heart of the Gospel is to be found in three facts—not one. "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received; how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Now in making this assertion Paul tells us some things about this Gospel about which I want you to think. He tells us first of all:

I. The Authority of the Gospel

Paul did not originate the Gospel. It was not the product of his own thinking, nor the child of his own imagination. It was not born in his mind nor conceived by his wisdom. It was received by him. He says, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received." And he tells us in another place from whom he received it. In the letter to the Galatians he is

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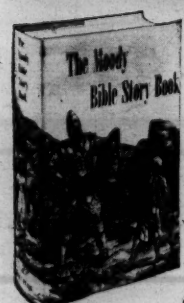
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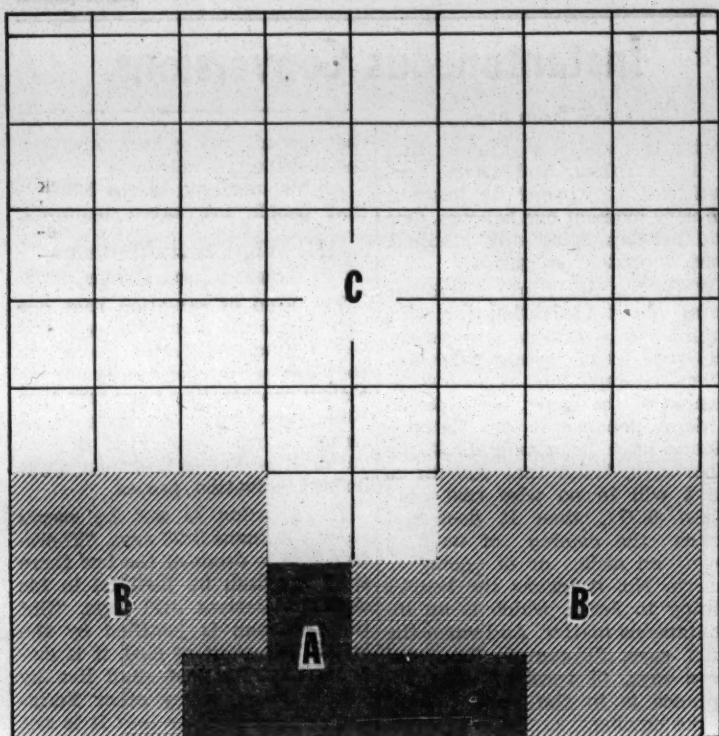
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Payment Chart on New Sword Property

To make it easy to picture we have divided a piece of ground into squares. Each square above represents 400 square feet of new Sword property, Hale and Seminary Streets, Wheaton. Each 400 square feet costs us \$1,000.

The section marked "A" represents \$5,000 paid in October, 1953.

The two sections marked "B" are 6,800 square feet, for which we paid \$17,000 on January 1, 1954.

The section marked "C" represents 44 units, \$1,000 each, making a total of \$44,000 which we must pay on August 1, 1954, when we take possession.

6 Reasons Why . . .

(Continued from page 4)

to win souls to Christ. When evangelists and evangelism were in disrepute, Dr. Rice still called himself an evangelist and made THE SWORD OF THE LORD an evangelistic revival paper. God has honored our stand about this, and nearly every day we hear from one or more persons who have found Christ through the literature and are writing to tell us about it. Back last year 673 people wrote to tell us that they were saved through some phase of our ministry. This does not include those who were won to Christ through the foreign translations of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" or those who were won to Christ by our evangelists who were on the field. Because we have put the main things first, I believe that God will help us about this matter of the Building Fund need.

VI. Because We Have Friends Like You for God to Work Through

Frankly, it would be humanly impossible for us to see the answer to our prayer and have the \$44,000 which we need by August 1 unless we had friends like you. In I Samuel 10:26 we read, "And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men whose hearts God had touched." Through the years God has been raising up a band of people like yourself who are interested in the same things we are interested in and have loyally,

liberally and sacrificially helped with this work. My heart has been greatly touched as I have read the letters and seen some of the gifts coming for our Building Fund. I remember back in December when we had this urgent need for the \$17,000 that we received so many sacrificial gifts from folks who could not really afford to give but gave out of real poverty to this work. So many envelopes have come back recently to us with \$1 bills inside and with handwriting on the envelope very shaky, indicating that the person who was giving was well up in years.

Then there are letters that come like this one from Mrs. Lalia Schowalter in Norman, Arkansas:

"Dear Friends:

"Thanks very much for the certificate, but I must tell you that I don't think I would like to stand on a two-foot space; I prefer four feet because it would be less crowded. I have \$5 more of the Lord's money, and I know you can do more with it than I can.

"Sincerely,"

(Signed) Mrs. Lalia Schowalter
Norman, Arkansas

This dear lady had sent us \$5 for the Building Fund and had received the certificate showing that she had purchased two square feet of the new building property. Then, she sent us with this letter another \$5 so that she may have four feet of the property. Through the years we have not had any denominational group organization

do is in the heart, a decision to trust in Christ, turning from his sin.

2. *Instantaneous conversion cannot come by church rites or religious ceremonies.* All the six examples given, Bible cases of instantaneous conversion, were saved without any ceremonials or rites of the church. All were saved without baptism, saved without confirmation, saved without taking the Lord's Supper, saved without church membership. I have no doubt that most of them were baptized, perhaps all of them except the dying thief, after conversion. *But they were already saved before they were baptized.* I have an idea that those who could, studied the Bible, and grew in grace as Christians. But they were already saved, the moment they trusted in Christ! Instant salvation necessarily happens in the heart, without waiting for religious rites and ceremonies.

3. *Instant salvation precludes any period of mourning or waiting or extended praying.* The sinful woman discussed in Luke, chapter 7, was weeping, but the tears had nothing to do with her salvation, for Jesus said to her, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50). Her weeping grew out of her love, no doubt, and her glad joy that she had been forgiven so much, as Jesus said. People may weep in sorrow over their sins before they are saved, or they may weep for joy after they are saved; but in neither case does the weeping have anything directly to do with their salvation. One who is weeping and yet unsaved should quit his weeping and trust Christ. To weep for days would not save one, but the very moment one trusts in Christ, then he has instant salvation, whether it is preceded by weeping or not. To be sure, there is a heart-turning from sin, when anyone honestly comes to Christ and trusts in Christ, but that heart-turning is a simple decision of the will that may take but an instant. Zacharias slid down the tree to receive Jesus joyfully, and the moment he hit the ground he was ready to make restitution for wrongs committed, and Jesus said that salvation had already come to his house.

In a fine article published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD the manuscript originally had spoken of sinners "weeping their way to Jesus," but when the matter was called to the attention of the author, he instantly agreed that people do not weep their way to Jesus. People do not "weep their way to Calvary." That is not the way to Jesus nor the way to Calvary. The way to Jesus is to simply trust him, and the honest decision of a penitent heart to turn to Jesus and risk Him for salvation. We ought not to use the term "weeping their way to Jesus," because that is not the way to get to Jesus and that is misleading and contrary to Bible doctrine and Bible example.

With the sick man and his

behind us. All we have had is the Lord and friends like you whom He could send to support this work of faith.

Elsewhere on this page you will see a chart of our payment plan for the purchase of the new property. You will see that 22 units at \$1,000 apiece have already been paid for. There are 44 units which must be paid for on August 1 of this year. To make this payment seems an almost impossible task but we believe that God is going to help us.

We are looking to the Lord and praying for 300 who would enlist in a Gideon's Band to send \$100 apiece for the Building Fund. Then we are praying that God will send 8 who would be captains of this Gideon's Band and would give \$500 apiece for this project. Then, too, there will need to be thousands of smaller gifts from friends all over the country who want to have a part in this program. Following is a coupon which you may fill out and indicate your interest in this Building Program. Will you make it so that God can use you in answering this special prayer for our Building Program?

Instantaneous Conversions

(Continued from page 7)

physician it is, "I am willing for you to take my case; I trust you to get me well." With the bride standing with her bridegroom at the marriage altar, it is, "I, Mary, take thee, Joseph," or a simple "I do." And with a poor sinner and the Saviour it is a simple, "I believe that you love me and died to save me as you say. I here and now take you to be my Saviour and trust you to save my soul." Salvation, since it is an instant salvation, must be settled by a simple and instant heart transaction. Jesus promised to save those who trust Him, those who come to Him. The moment we come or the moment we trust or the moment we receive Him, by faith, it is done.

4. *Salvation, then, is a miracle of God's grace.* A man might grow better outwardly by years of self-judgment, by years of correcting his habits and subduing his passions. But no man can instantly change his nature, his own heart. So when people are converted instantly, that proves that God Himself has worked a miracle. Salvation is what God does, not what men do. One who is saved thus

becomes a child of God instantly. His sins are forgiven; his name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. He has everlasting life. Salvation, then, is a wonderful miracle of God's grace. The sinner cannot save himself, the sinner cannot keep himself. But by instantaneous conversion, a child is born into God's family. The new convert is now a partaker of the divine nature. The Holy Spirit now lives in his heart, literally in his body.

Sometimes lost sinners are told that they must "pray through." But no sinner ever needs to "pray through" for salvation. Jesus Christ has already *paid through*, and all a sinner needs to do to turn to Christ is to honestly, sincerely accept Christ as Saviour, depending on Him and believing on Him for the forgiveness which He has already promised. Christians, those already saved, sometimes need to pray through about other matters. Jesus told about the widow who "prayed through" to the unjust judge and was avenged of her adversaries (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus told of the man who came to his friend to seek three loaves of bread and "prayed through," that is, by his importunity he got what he wanted. And

(Continued on page 9)

"But I Wrote Last Year"

(Continued from page 6)

relative, who has had this kind of special blessing in their lives through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Do tell us about it! It will honor God, it will encourage our hearts, and the telling of it will be a blessing to you, I am sure.

Well, how is your letter coming? Still no idea? Then make a suggestion about THE SWORD OF THE LORD! Tell us what you particularly like about the paper, what you don't like about it. If you want more pictures, say so. If you have found what you needed in the Advertising columns, tell us about that. If you want more sermons by a particular preacher, a favorite of yours, tell us who he is.

Well, that's about it. Your letter is almost ready to go. But just a minute, before you sign your name and seal the envelope! Be sure that this sentence appears in your letter: "Please send me the free twenty-four page booklet, *Pearls of Paradise*. Be sure to get that sentence in, so you will get your free copy of the booklet!"

One more suggestion before you close your letter. Is there a neighbor you have intended to send THE SWORD to? This would be a good time to get the subscription off to us! Just give us the full

name and address, writing it as clearly as you can. Enclose \$2.50 for each subscription in the U. S. A.; \$3.00 a year for subscriptions to Canada and foreign countries. Or maybe you would like to give us a list of names to whom we can send sample copies of THE SWORD. We are always glad to have such lists and it has been a wonderful way of getting acquainted with many people who need THE SWORD and should have it.

Is there a book you have been wanting to order? Look over the list of books and choose \$5.00 worth, and you will get a wonderful free book as a premium. The choice is wide this year and I think anybody will find a book they will keep and treasure, so order your books and subscriptions now while you can get special prices and a free premium as well.

Now you can sign your name, fold your letter and place it in an envelope, stamp and address it to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois. We will be mighty glad to hear from you, and I think you will have a nice warm feeling around the heart when you have gotten your letter off. Thank you and may God bless you richly!

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Instantaneous Conversions

(Continued from page 8)

so many Christians keep on praying, pleading with God, for other matters. But remember, no one needs to "pray through" about salvation. That would not be instant salvation. The very fact that salvation is instantaneous proves that it cannot be received as a drawn-out process, as some things are received.

5. *Instantaneous salvation proves that it is settled by a simple transaction of faith.* Many transactions are simple acts of faith. With the bank and depositor it is, "I deposit my money, risking you to keep it." With the lawyer and his client it is, "I depend upon you to get me out of jail."

Oh, instantaneous conversion

proves that salvation is the marvelous gift of God's love and grace. And since God does it, and does it freely, for people who do not deserve it, then anyone who will may be saved.

Have you, dear reader, been converted, born again? If not, then put your trust in Jesus, have that simple transaction all settled, and you will have instantaneously everlasting life.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned"—John 3:18.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life"—John 3:36.

"He that believeth on me hath everlasting life"—John 6:47.

"All that believe are justified"—Acts 13:39.

— THE END —

Meet Dr. Roberson

In this issue we publish a blessed message by Dr. Lee Roberson. Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor, evangelist, educator, soul winner extraordinary, is more blessed with the power of God on his manifold labors than almost anyone else we know.

Jesus told the disciples in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." And who better could tell us about the dynamite of God than this Spirit-filled man upon whom God has graciously put His power?

Note how God is blessing the manifold activities of Dr. Roberson:

1. He is pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, which I believe to be the greatest soul-winning church in the world. The church membership, as of June 1, 1953, was 10,562. Of the 1,888 additions to the church in 1952, 1,044 were new converts baptized. Over 1,000 were won to Christ in the church, chapels, and their downtown rescue mission, who did not unite with Highland Park Church. For nine years the church has led 28,000 churches of the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of converts baptized.

Everything about this great church is geared to soul winning. An average of some 225 people do supervised visiting each Thursday evening to see selected prospects. Dr. Roberson himself, when at home, plans to visit ten homes daily, primarily to see the unsaved and unenlisted. The Sunday morning service, the Sunday evening service, and the big mid-week service on Wednesday night are all evangelistic preaching services with a public invitation to claim Christ openly, and there are conversions on Wednesday night just the same as Sunday night. The baptistry is used regularly as a part of these great services. In the last church year, the average Sunday School attendance was 3,730. Nearly three-fourths of this number was in the one great church Sunday School. The other one-fourth was in the thirty-five chapels maintained by the church, within a radius of thirty miles. The training union attendance preceding the evening service averaged 1,073 during the last year. The total church offerings in 1952 were \$317,917.94.

The big steel and brick church auditorium of Highland Park seats some 2,600 as recently enlarged, and 400 extra chairs may be added. Extra chairs are regularly needed in Sunday services.

2. Dr. Roberson is the president of Tennessee Temple Schools, Bible school, college, seminary, and grammar school. Founded seven years before, the college, Bible school and seminary had this session, 651 full-time students matriculated. The grammar school is crowded beyond capacity. Ninety-five per cent of students in the Bible school, college, and seminary go into full-time Christian work.

3. Dr. Roberson also heads the Union Gospel Mission in downtown Chattanooga, supported entirely by Highland Park Church, where hundreds are won to Christ.

4. In Camp Joy, more than 1,000 underprivileged children are cared for each summer, and many are won to Christ.

5. World-Wide Faith Missions, headed by Dr. Roberson, supports 106 full-time missionaries in many countries of the world.

Besides all these activities, and seven radio services weekly, Dr. Roberson is continually called out of Chattanooga for Monday and Tuesday, or for Thursday and Friday to speak before groups of Christian workers, to stir revival fires, to tell how to build a great

The Dynamite of Convictions

(Continued from page 1)

angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

Daniel's convictions made him sober, honest, and true. His enemies could find no fault in him, though they sought to destroy him.

As we look into the book of Daniel, we should not forget also the convictions of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These stalwart Hebrews partook of Daniel's courage. When Nebuchadnezzar made an image and commanded all the people to worship it, the Hebrew children refused to do so. It was reported to the king. In rage and fury he commanded them to be brought before him. They refused to compromise or to bow down. They were cast into the fiery furnace, but God preserved their lives.

Friends, there is dynamite in convictions, and I will show you that this is true.

I. Men of Convictions Have Moved the World

Daniel caused kings to wait for his word. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius—all waited upon Daniel, a Hebrew man who had convictions.

One of the great, tragic, unforgettable nights of the Bible was the night when Belshazzar was slain. You remember the story of this wicked king and a thousand of his lords. They drank wine from the golden and silver vessels out of the temple in Jerusalem. In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand began to write upon the plaster of the wall. The king saw it and was frightened. Daniel was called in to give the interpretation. He was promised everything by the king, but Daniel refused any honors or any gifts. He gave a true interpretation of the words on the wall. He said, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." In that night Belshazzar was slain.

Daniel might have hedged a little bit in giving the interpretation. He might have said that he could not read it, or he might have given only a part of its meaning. But we see the prophet standing before the king and the thousand lords and nobles and declaring unto them the whole counsel of God.

The Apostle Paul was a man of such convictions that empires were moved. When Paul was saved, it was prophesied of him that he

soul-winning church. He generally does not accept engagements that take him away from his church on Sundays or on Wednesday night.

The reader may judge Dr. Roberson's sermon for himself. We preachers could learn much from the simple and definite outlines, the bold and earnest approach, the holy zeal with which this man of God presses God's claims upon the hearts of saint and sinner alike. Each sermon is written out before it is preached, and is so well mastered that the preacher can speak extemporaneously with great freedom, always decisively, knowing exactly where he is going and what he hopes to accomplish. There is the boldness of experience and authority in all his preaching. All of his preaching is aimed directly at some great end. While he is a good sound Bible scholar, he never gives pointless exposition. With him, the Word of God is not simply food for fat saints, nor amusing and interesting subject matter for its own sake. With him, the Word of God is a sword, a hammer, a fire; it is living seed sowed for a harvest.

Dr. Roberson is a graduate of the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, and attended the Southern Baptist Seminary. His church is a regular Southern Baptist church. Doctrinally he is fundamental and premillennial, with a strong stand against worldliness and sin. God's power is upon Him and we foretell that great blessing will come from this sermon and other's in the book of 12 sermons, *Its Dynamite* (\$1.50 plus 15c postage, 'Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Ill.).

would stand before Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. He did stand before many kings. They trembled in his presence. The entire Roman Empire was touched and moved by the life and convictions of one evangelist.

Martin Luther was a man of convictions. When his own soul was awakened and saved, he took his stand. Rome was shaken. The course of history was changed. The name of Luther was engraved upon the scroll of the world, never to be erased. What convictions did this man have when he said, "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise." What courage for one man, and yet by his standing, thousands, yea, millions have come to hear the Gospel of Christ.

John Wesley was a man of convictions. After he became established in the faith, all England and the world were moved. Someone has said, "Wesley made the masses of England sin-conscious, God-conscious, and grace-conscious. He restored to them their souls. He opened their spiritual eyes and unstopped their spiritual ears." The *Cambridge Modern History* says of Wesley, "Wesley brought forth water from the rocks to make a barren land live again." A great scholar said regarding Wesley, "No man lived nearer to the center than John Wesley, neither Pitt nor Clive, neither Mansfield nor Johnson. You cannot cut him out of the national life. No single figure influenced so many minds. No single voice touched so many hearts. No other man did such a life's work for England."

For fifty-three years following Wesley's great spiritual experience, in the face of difficulties, seemingly unsurmountable, Wesley fought and won. Many historians have agreed that Wesley saved England from the horrors of a French revolution.

I am saying to you that men of convictions have moved the world. We can easily see that this is the need of today; men who so love God and believe in His Word that they will stand, though all Hell be turned loose against them.

II. Men of Convictions Suffer

In the process of standing for God and right, there is always suffering. Why? Because of the animosity of Satan and a satanic-controlled world.

Joseph in Egypt suffered for his convictions. When tempted to sin, he stood true to God, but it meant imprisonment.

Daniel in Babylon stood true to God. He wavered not, but he paid a high price. He was made to suffer by the enemies of righteousness.

It is always the man who lives right, holds high standards, refuses to compromise, who attracts to himself the arrows of slander and defamation. This is one of the prices which must be paid by those who have convictions.

The three Hebrew children stood for their convictions, but they were made to suffer.

John the Baptist, a man of unwavering convictions, came to a place of suffering. A king was made to tremble because of his denunciation of sin, but the prison soon received John the Baptist, and after a while, his head was severed from his noble shoulders. Convictions and suffering go together.

The Apostle Paul had convictions and suffered because of them. His own people hated and hounded him. In every place he was stoned, jailed, reviled, and persecuted.

I know that I am not presenting a very encouraging picture. Some of you are a little weak and may be saying, "Well, I will have fewer convictions and suffer less." That my friend, is your choice, but wait and hear the rest of the message before you decide.

The world says, "Take it easy. Enjoy life. Don't make it hard on yourself." Perhaps the Devil whispered this into the ear of Daniel when the decree was signed that he should not pray, but Daniel said, "I must pray. It is my custom to pray three times a day, and I intend to pursue this custom."

Satan might have whispered into the ear of John the Baptist, "Take it easy, John. No use of getting excited."

But John the Baptist saw the sin of Herod and Herodias. He thundered forth, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." He paid the price, but we have the record of a man who refused to compromise. John the Baptist died, but today he lives. The mention of his name is like waving a banner in the air.

The famous John Bunyan must have had his battle with Satan when he was requested to sign a paper saying that he would not preach in public. But John Bunyan refused to sign the paper. He was imprisoned for twelve years. The Devil might have said, "You have to live. You have a wife and children. Think of your little girl, Mary, who is blind." Yes, John Bunyan thought of that, but he thought first of God and his resolution to stand for Him. John Bunyan remained in the dungeon. He turned his family, his little blind girl, over to the Lord.

It was toward the end of his imprisonment that John Bunyan wrote that glorious passage in which he said, "Unless I am willing to make of my conscience a continual slaughtering and butchery, unless I am willing to pluck out my eyes and let the blind lead me, then God Almighty being my witness and my defence—if it shall please Him to let frail life last that long—the moss shall grow upon these eyebrows before (Continued on page 10)

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you wait until you move before advising us, copies of *The Sword* will continue to go to your former address. We must have your old as well as your new address five weeks before you move in order to have the change effective with the current issue when you arrive at your new address.

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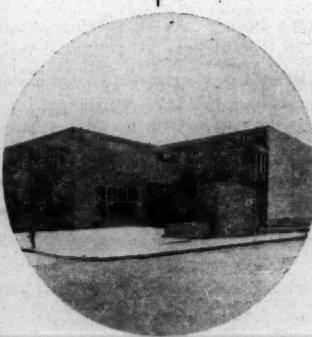
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The Dynamite of Convictions

(Continued from page 9)

I surrender my principles or violate my conscience."

III. Men of Convictions Are the Happiest Men

You say I am presenting a contradiction. Not at all. There is no contradiction. Suffering for God does not take away true happiness or peace. Ease of conscience can only come when men stand for God.

Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, John the

Baptist, the Apostle Paul, and all others who suffered for their convictions had within their hearts the true peace of God.

Paul, who suffered much for his convictions, could say, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men."

What peace we find recorded in the last chapter of II Timothy. As Paul faced the end of life, his heart was at rest.

Satisfaction does not come from compromise—it comes from stand-

ing for the truth. Ease of conscience does not come from giving way to every wind of doctrine, but it comes from facing the battering storms of the world, and refusing to give in.

Why are men of convictions the happiest ones? Because God is with them. Faithfulness to God will bring down divine blessings beyond anything that this world can know about.

IV. Men of Convictions Are Rewarded Here and Hereafter

Unto Daniel was given an outline of history down to the time of the end. The Lord told Daniel

of the coming of Christ, the reign of the Saviour upon David's throne, and moral and spiritual conditions in the end time. It is as if the Lord confided in Daniel because He loved him.

Not only this, but David was rewarded by Gabriel coming down to tell him how much he was loved in Heaven (Dan. 9:23). Daniel lived in such a way that God sent down an angel to tell him of the favor that he had in the glory world.

Not only the presence of God is given as a reward to those who stand, but also results are given to men of convictions. Do you want to win souls for Christ?

Then stand without wavering. You will not win by compromise or weakness.

The soul winner who has fruit has convictions regarding the Bible, salvation, Heaven, and Hell.

There is also a reward hereafter. At the judgment seat of Christ, it will be wonderful to be found faithful. Paul was looking for a crown of righteousness which the Lord would give to him.

Not only at the judgment seat of Christ will a reward be given, but in the kingdom of Christ upon the earth there will be a reward. He that is faithful in little will be faithful in much. "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"

In the parable of the talents, when the faithful servants came, the lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord." The fullness of this will be in the millennial kingdom.

V. Men of Convictions Turn Others to God

Daniel took his stand for right and gave courage to the other Hebrew children.

Daniel stood for God, and one day old wicked Nebuchadnezzar turned and said, "Now, I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."

Faithfulness commends itself to a lost world. Sinners are looking for examples of true faith.

The faith of the world cannot be bought by compromise—even in small things. It seems a very small matter whether Daniel would eat and drink that which was placed before him, but Daniel's convictions would not permit him to eat. He was faithful to God and his record is given to bless the world.

John the Baptist stood his ground. He turned many to righteousness. Herod was a weak-kneed, sinful person. His name means nothing to the world.

Simon Peter lived for God. After Pentecost he became the rock as prophesied by Jesus. A man named Ananias fled to God, and was quickly stricken dead. His name means nothing to the world.

The name of Paul is known to millions, but how many people know the name of Demas? Demas was a man without convictions. His record simply says, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica."

Right convictions are dynamite. There is power in standing true.

Resolve to live for God. Make a right resolution and depend upon divine assistance. You cannot stand by yourself, for the flesh is weak. But when resolution is linked with prayer, strength will be given for each day. Remember Daniel was a man of prayer as well as purpose.

Daniel stood for God without compromise, because he lived in the presence of the Lord. He prayed, he sought the face of God, he refrained himself from evil.

Courage is needed to stand for the Lord. It is impossible to be a faithful Christian and to be a coward at the same time. We must not be afraid of what men can do to us. We must not tentatively try to save our lives, but we must be willing to give our lives for Him. Fear makes men deserters. Pray that God will make you a hero.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the unsaved. Your first and greatest need is Jesus Christ. It is through faith in Him that you become a new creature. As a child of God you are able to pray and receive power from on high. Convictions to live right and do right will amount to little without divine power within you; therefore, repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ. Put your hand in the nail-scarred hand of our Saviour. This is your greatest need.

(From *It's Dynamite*, book of twelve sermons, four pages of pictures, \$1.50 plus 15c postage and wrapping, Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Ill.)

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Why People Are Not Saved

(Continued from page 1)

More than that—the Bible tells us about sin. Now, other books talk about sin, other books talk about meanness, other books talk about delinquency. Many other books talk about all phases of sin—lying, stealing, drunkenness, idolatry, fornication. But only one book goes into detail and gives to mankind a true account about sin.

There is only one book that tells us, that gives to us the true account of your sin. Only one book tells us about *my* sin. Only one book tells us about the *black man's* sin, about the *white man's* sin, about *any person's* sin—the Bible. Do you want to read about your sin? Turn to the Bible. See what the Bible has to say about your lying, your swearing, your stealing, your immorality, about all the things that are wrong with your life. Find out what the Bible has to say about them, for that's the Book that tells the truth about sin.

More than that—the Bible tells about salvation. There is no other book on earth that can tell about salvation. Any other book that speaks of it borrowed it from the Bible. What light they have, they got it here from the sacred page. The Bible tells about sin; no other book does. The Bible tells about how a man is delivered from sin, about the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ. It gives to us the history of the redemption of the human race upon the earth. It is told clearly, definitely, positively in the Bible. The Bible makes the way of salvation plain, so plain, that a fool need not err therein. The Bible tells us how a man can get to Heaven, and how a man can get saved. That is clear in the Bible. God has made it easy for a person to get saved. We preachers make it hard. Some Christian workers make it hard to get saved. The Bible makes it easy.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Could you find anything easier? That is the simplest form of human effort. What? Believing! Any person can do it. A little child can believe, an old man can believe. All the way in between they can believe. A sick man can believe. A dying man can believe. In the weakest moments of your life, friend, all you need to do in thought is to turn to Jesus Christ by faith, believing, trusting, and God will save you right then.

The Bible tells about sin. The Bible tells about Jesus Christ, about His death, His birth, about what He came to do. The Bible tells about salvation. The Bible tells about how people are saved.

The Bible tells us why people are not saved. Look at the text we have before us, John 5:40. Jesus Christ tells us here in this text why people are not saved. If you are not saved, this text tells you why you are not saved. If people are not saved in Philadelphia, this verse tells us why they are not saved. If people are not saved in New York City, here is one verse from the lips of Jesus Christ that tells us why they are not saved.

You know somebody; you will work with somebody tomorrow in the shop, in the factory, in the store, who is not saved. Here is a verse that clearly tells you why he is not saved. "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."

Notice three or four simple things that lie on the surface, on the outside of the text.

Religious People

First, the text speaks about a religious people. It says, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." These religious people are set forth in that little pronoun "*ye*." Now, back in this same chapter, the fifth chapter of John's Gospel, notice who these people were. "The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for

thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed and walk" (vss. 10,11). Now, read verse 18 in the same chapter, "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

Do you see who the people were? They were Jews away back in that day. Now, notice some things about these people. First, they had the Scriptures, for in verse 39 of John 5 we read that Jesus Christ said to them, "Search the scriptures. You have them; take a look at them. Read the Old Testament Scriptures. You ought to see in there who I am. Read the promises and predictions concerning Me. By My virgin birth, by My sinless life, you ought to know Me." So Christ said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."

Now, the Lord told them to search the Scriptures. Let me say this tonight, that tens of thousands of people in Gospel-enlightened lands have the Bible. The majority of them have it. The average church member has the Bible, but he doesn't read it enough. People ought to read the Bible more. The Bible tells us who Jesus Christ is. The Bible tells us who we are and what we are, and the Bible tells us just what Jesus Christ came to do.

They not only had the Scriptures, but they had the outward form of religion, just the outward form. They had the outward ritual of it in the religious services. Now remember that ritualism always hinders, always kills the operation of the pure, unadulterated grace of God; the movements of God, the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God cannot get to the hearts of a lot of religious folks who have never been born again. The Holy Ghost cannot get to their lives because of a ritual that keeps the Spirit of God from having His way.

Now, the Spirit of God may not deal with two people alike. He may not have dealt with me the way that He dealt with you before you were saved; but remember you are not saved apart from the operation of the Holy Ghost, bringing you to the place where you become convicted of your sin, and feel your need of a personal Saviour.

Now, these folks had the outward form. They had the kernel without the husks. They had the outward picture of it, the outward going to meetings, for those Jews went every Sabbath day to the Meeting House. But they had nothing inside their hearts. They didn't know the transforming power that comes from the transfiguration of the Gospel by the Holy Ghost into the heart and mind of a man or woman. They had a form of worship, but it was not Christian. It did for their day, but they had not come into a new era, when Jesus Christ had come and the old had been set to one side, and now the new has taken its place. They must be born again. They had their feast days, certainly—lots of them. They had their high days, their holy days. They had their Sabbath days, but none of these could take the place of personal faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who brought a man out of nature's darkness, and made him to know Jesus Christ.

More than that; they had the Law of God on the outside. They didn't know what it meant on the inside. They had the Law of God on the outside and the hatred of the Devil on the inside. Notice John 5:16, "And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day."

Do you see what they had?

Then, when they had crucified Him, and Jesus Christ had been buried, and had risen from the grave, God was preaching to them through one of His servants, Stephen in the seventh chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Stephen said in verse 51 of Acts 7, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it."

They had the law of God on the outside, but the hatred of Satan and sin on the inside. They were zealous in their religious activities. What does Paul say concerning them? "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:1-3). It is not according to the Word of God. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." What were they doing? Going about to establish their own righteousness.

Hundreds and thousands today—Protestants and Roman Catholics, Mohammedans and Jews, all kinds of religious folks, all apart from Christianity are going about to establish their own righteousness, and they have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God which is in Jesus Christ. That is why they are just "going about." They haven't found Jesus Christ. They haven't trusted Him. They are saying prayers, figuring that will take them to Heaven. They are confessing, figuring that will take them into Heaven. Thousands join Protestant churches and get a package of envelopes, and seek to do something that seems virtuous, feeling that that will give them merit before God. It has church related to it, and something that is "kind of Christian."

Oh, my friend, let me say this: that doesn't get a man to Heaven. That is no substitute for personal faith in Jesus Christ. Thousands go to church, and have joined a church because they are trying to appease the wrath of an angry God. Not because they love the Lord; not because they are zealous in the things of God, but because they are afraid to go to Hell, and they think if they do something, it will save them from Hell, and take them to Heaven. You can't do anything that will take you to Heaven. Jesus paid it all. He does everything, or else He doesn't do anything for you. You have to let Him do everything. When He died, He paid the debt in order that you and I might be free. All a man needs to do is just trust in Jesus Christ.

Now, these folks were zealous in their religion. They were hurrying, but they were on the wrong road. And what is the use of hurrying if you are on the wrong road? Do you notice here that they were religious people?

Rebellious Practice

The second thing the text tells us about these people is their rebellious practice. I notice it right here in the text. The Lord Jesus said, "And ye will not come..." They steeled their hearts, they set their teeth, they stiffened their necks, they set themselves, braced themselves against any kind of tug and pull that would move them toward Heaven. He says, "Ye set your will." Now, a man is not saved against his will, but an unsaved man has set his will not to be saved. Jesus Christ says, "Ye will not come..."

These people were rebellious. The Bible speaks about people being irreligious. Scattered all through the Bible we find irreligious people. The Bible speaks about impudent people. Israel was called impudent and stiffnecked. The Bible speaks about indifferent people, but these people were independent. Ah, they were independent; they were going to live independent of God and the revelation God has given in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. They

were self-sufficient, self-satisfied, self-important.

Are you self-sufficient? Do you think you will go to Heaven without trusting Jesus, without personal faith in Jesus, without publicly confessing Christ? Are you self-satisfied with what you have? Now, it is not a question of you being satisfied and getting into Heaven. It is a question of whether God is satisfied or not. You have to satisfy God. You will not get into Heaven because you are satisfied with what you have. You have to meet God's terms.

Is God satisfied? God may not be satisfied to let you in, friend, because you haven't named the name of Christ, you haven't confessed Christ, you haven't experienced Christ and His transforming power in your heart and life. You may feel self-important, thinking you can get along without God. These people didn't need Jesus Christ, but turned Him down and nailed Him to a cross. I am saying they were rebellious, and here is a picture of their rebellious practice. They would not come.

Now, they rebelled first against the Word of God. That is a sad thing, brother, when you rebel against God's Word. That is what they were doing. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." You search them. You search the Word of God and see what the Bible has to say about you. Jesus told them to open their Bible. They wouldn't do it. They rebelled against the Word of God.

They rebelled against the Son of God. John 5:16-18, "Therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." Now, they rebelled against the Son of God. They killed Jesus Christ. How do you know? They said so, themselves. The Jews said, "His blood be upon us."

They rebelled against the servants of God. Turn to Acts chapter 7, and notice what it says about the rebellion in the hearts and lives of these people. "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" (Acts 7:52). Stephen laid that at their door. John the Baptist was killed by them. Stephen was martyred. James was killed. By whom? These Jews.

Then, they rebelled against the Spirit of God. Look at verse 51 of Acts 7, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." The Spirit of God wanted to lead them to the Saviour, the Son of God, but they spurned the Spirit's voice that spoke to them and said, "You ought to trust Jesus." They steeled their hearts, they steeled their wills against Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and were stubborn against any invasion of the Holy Ghost. I want to know why men were so rebellious. Why does mankind rebel against God? Unsaved person, why do you rebel against Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Now, the text says, "Ye will not come." I want you to see first, the nature of that rebellion. Their rebellion was definite. It was planned, it was schemed, it was formed, it was framed in their minds and in their hearts. It was definite. More than that—it was determined. They said, "We will not have this man to reign over us." Do you mean it wasn't determined? The reason why men outside of Jesus Christ are not saved is because their rebellion is determined. They will not come to Jesus Christ. Their rebellion was not only definite, it was not only determined, but it was disastrous. It shut the door of Heaven right in their own face. It slammed the door of God, the door He was holding open for them to come through, right in their own face. They brought disaster not only to themselves as individuals, but they

brought disaster to the whole Jewish nation. Why? Because they would not have this man to reign over them. Jesus said, "I know why you are not saved. Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." That was the nature of their rebellion. It was definite, it was determined, it was disastrous.

Now see the source of that rebellion. Where was it born? That rebellion was impelled by a carnal nature. Their carnal nature didn't want Jesus Christ to move in and reign. People are not saved because of that. They don't want Jesus Christ to be sovereign in their hearts and lives. They have fleshly desires. They would rather have their own sin than God's Saviour.

Do you see the source of their rebellion? Impelled by a carnal nature, incensed by a wicked heart, they didn't want the holiness of Jesus Christ. They didn't want a holy life. They didn't want a holy conduct. They didn't want God's love, God's grace, God's joy, God's blessing and God's benediction.

(Continued on Page 12)

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Why People Are Not Saved

(Continued from page 11)

tion upon their hearts and lives. I'm saying that their rebellion in its source was incensed by a wicked heart.

Then, back of all that, it was instigated by the Devil. Notice what it says in John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye received me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." He is the Devil incarnate, the Antichrist. Look at John 8:44. Speaking to the same people, Jesus Christ said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

And more than being instigated by the Devil was their rebellion, which was inspired by the multitude. They wanted to go with the crowd, and they didn't want to go with Jesus Christ. Do you see why people are not saved? Do you see why men don't come to the Son of God? Do you notice in the text, "Ye will not come to me"?

Rejected Person

Now, the third thing in this text; it speaks about a rejected Person. Let me read the text to you again, "And ye will not come to me." The rejected person was Jesus Christ Himself. Hear me. They didn't know the depths of their sin. When Christ was on the cross, He said in a prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. They don't know the extent of their sin when they are crucifying Me. They don't know the depths of their sin when they are nailing Me to this tree. They don't know the far-reaching extent of that which they are now doing. They don't know the day is soon coming when they shall be scattered, and torn among the nations of the earth, and suffering terribly at the hands of men. My people—and they have turned Me down and nailed Me to a tree. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do when they are rejecting Me and nailing Me to the tree."

Now, notice as it speaks about the rejected person; first, they rejected God's Son, God's only Son. That is sin. That is the sin of all sins. That is the damning sin. That is the sin that will put you in Hell. Your own evil and wicked conduct will lead you to the place where you will keep Jesus crowded out of your heart and life. Your delving into and your diving into drunkenness, debauchery and sin, will lead you to the place where you will leave Jesus Christ out, and you will find yourself damned and out in eternal darkness.

These folks rejected God's Son. That isn't the will of God for any man. This is the will of God, that ye believe on Him, whom God has sent. They rejected that One who is God's only Son. You be careful when you do that.

The Apostle Paul said something about this matter—of the bitter consequences of not coming to Jesus—with an unusual warning in Hebrews 10:28, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses." Notice verse 29, "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Oh, the awful judgment that comes upon a man or woman who has never personally experienced the regenerating power of the Holy Ghost!

They rejected God's only Son. Oh, what wickedness! What punishment! How hot Hell will be for the man or woman who hasn't confessed, who hasn't received Christ, who hasn't acknowledged Christ, who hasn't owned Christ, who hasn't publicly declared Jesus Christ, who doesn't enjoy the Son of God, and who doesn't have His life and love pulsating in their hearts! Hell will be awful for the man who has heard about Jesus and turned Him down.

They not only rejected God's

Son, but they rejected man's Saviour. "Thou shalt call his name" [the One whom they rejected] JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." God made Him to be a Saviour for mankind. Mohammedanism has no saviour, Buddhism has no saviour, Catholicism has no saviour, Christianity has no saviour, Modernism has no saviour. "For unto you is born this day... a Saviour," cried the angel. Suppose they turn Him down, suppose they reject Him, suppose they don't come to Him? That is what they are doing. They are rejecting man's only Saviour, and that rejected Person was God's Saviour for mankind.

Man has no other saviour; you have no other one to save you. You have to come to Jesus, or be lost and go to Hell. Why? Because He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." There is no other door. There is no other way. A man must come by Christ. If you reject Christ, you reject man's only Saviour.

They not only rejected God's Son, they not only rejected man's Saviour, but they rejected God's salvation; for remember that God's salvation is associated with Jesus Christ. It is in, and by, and through Christ. "There is none other name given under heaven"—not another name. Salvation is alone in the name of Jesus. It is by Him a man is saved (Acts 4:12).

Salvation is not in joining a church. Salvation is in a person, and that Person is Jesus Christ, God's Son. When they rejected God's Son, they rejected man's Saviour, and they rejected God's salvation.

Remarkable Privilege

Now, there is a fourth thing in this text. The text deals with a remarkable privilege. The text reads, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." Now, that is a remarkable, an unusual privilege indeed for any man of Adam's seed. Brother, we didn't deserve it. We have no right to have it, and you thank God for the privilege of God Himself devising and planning a way whereby mankind might have placed at their disposal the marvelous privilege of having everlasting life. This is a remarkable privilege.

Life is just what man doesn't have, but that is what man needs. He needs the life of God, he needs the life of Jesus Christ. He needs the life that the Spirit of God alone can impart and implant—eternal life. It is a privilege indeed.

First, it is an *unusual privilege*. Why should we have it? Did you deserve it, sister? Did you deserve it, brother? You folks who are saved—did you deserve everlasting life? You who are not saved, can you tell me a reason why God should give it to you? No more than I could give you a reason why God should ever give it to me. I'm saying that it is an unusual privilege. We are unworthy of it. It is the miracle of miracles, that we ever got life, that God ever gave it to us.

It is an *unparalleled privilege*. Why? Because, when we receive everlasting life, it gives us God's highest. God hasn't a better thing to give. Do you want Heaven's best? Then, get life that is in Jesus Christ. That is God's best. God's best is in His Son. God's best is His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. You can't get anything better. I'm saying that it is an unparalleled privilege. It gives to us God's biggest and God's best. It surpasses everything and every other blessing that God has to give—unparalleled in the pardon it gives, unparalleled in the life it bestows (everlasting life), unparalleled in the love it begets, unparalleled in the liberty it brings to a man's heart and a man's life—freedom from the control and power and domination of sin and sinful habits.

More than that—it is a *universal privilege*. None are excluded. At Christmas and Thanksgiving time we send out baskets to the

poor and needy. No doubt some one may be forgotten. Poor old Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jones and others also will be forgotten. But it is never so with God! He is giving a gift, a universal gift, and it is for all. None are excluded, and, thank God, all are included. Never feel you are not wanted. It doesn't matter how bad you are—some of you have sinned against God, sinned against society, sinned against the human race, sinned against yourself, sinned against your family, sinned against the law. You have sinned, but don't think that God will turn you down. No sir! He will take you in. God loves you and Christ provided for any man that wants to come this universal, unparalleled, unusual privilege of having everlasting life.

This need is universal because all have sinned. The call is universal—Come, friend, come. "Whoever will, come and partake and drink of the water of life." The privilege is universal. It is for any man who wants it, any man who will come. I'm saying to you it is a universal privilege.

All I can say in closing is, it is an *unmeasured privilege*. Can you tell about it? To have life means more than tongue can tell. No man can tell the ecstasy and the joy that is in his heart because he has taken Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour. You can never tell the happiness of it in personal experience. James McKendrick, that Scotch preacher, would say, "It's better felt than told." You can never tell the richness of it and the fullness of it in personal experience.

Nor can it be told in public service. Oh, what joy, what blessing! The blind cannot lead the blind, but when you come to know Christ and have life, then you can help somebody else. What a blessing in service! What a joy to tell somebody else about Jesus, then see them get saved! To have life means more than tongue can tell here in time, and to have the life of God means more than tongue can tell as to what it will mean to a believing heart hereafter.

Can you tell the joy that will be yours when you cross the swelling tide of Jordan? Can you tell the blessing that will be yours when you stand in the presence of the Eternal Son of God? Can you tell the ecstasy that will flood your mind and heart when you stand in the Gloryland, surrounded by angels and all the redeemed of all ages, and you stand in their presence to behold Jesus Christ, and you stand in the presence of the eternal God, and you have been stripped of all that is carnal, and you stand there in your redeemed body to enjoy the celestial land forever and forever? I'm saying to you, my friend, it's an unmeasured privilege to have everlasting life. Do you have it?

If you don't have it, you ought to take Jesus Christ to be your Saviour. You will enter into the bliss of eternal glory and everlasting gain. Eternal good, my friend, shall be yours in the Gloryland. Not to have this means an eternal loss. It means to be absent from God forever. It means to be separated from Jesus Christ forever. It means to be separated from the holy angels forever and forever. It means to be separated from all that is good forever and forever. It means to be absent from the presence of the eternal Trinity. It means to be absent from the enjoyment of all the redeemed of all ages in the Gloryland.

It means to be in Hell with all that is evil, all that is vile, all that is corrupt, all that is foul, all that is unclean, with the Devil and all demons, forever and forever. That is what it means if you don't open your heart and take Jesus. If you resist Him, you turn Him down. Jesus said, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."

Friend, don't steel your heart against God. Don't set your mind against the Holy Ghost. Allow Him to lead you to the Saviour. Open the door of your heart and let Jesus Christ in. Do you know that your sins are dooming you now? Do you know that your rejection of Jesus Christ is damning you now? Do you know that the sins and habits that control you are just taking you downstream by the power of an irresistible tide? If you have no

power to stand, then throw the door of your heart open. Let Jesus Christ come in. When Christ comes in and takes over, then you will go against the tide of sin, then you will go against the tide of evil, then you will go against the tide of wickedness—but not until then.

Then, why don't you open your heart and let Jesus Christ come in? That is what you ought to do, that is what you ought to do now. Will you do it?

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If you will this day take Christ as your own personal Saviour, please sign the statement below, copy it in a letter and mail it to the editor at once. I will notify Brother Telford and we will rejoice over your salvation and I will write you a letter of counsel and encouragement.


Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Andrew Telford's sermon, "Why People Are Not Saved" in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I confess that I am a poor, lost sinner who needs saving. I realize it is a sin to neglect Christ and to refuse Him. So now, this moment, I trust in Jesus Christ and take Him as my own Saviour. I give Him my heart forever and rely upon Him to forgive my sins, make me a Christian now and eventually take me to Heaven. I now claim Him as my own Saviour and will set out to live for Him.

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